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DIGITAL  
SLR

# MacAddict

A BETTER MACHINE. A BETTER MAGAZINE.

**THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO**

# GREAT PHOTOS

- **iPhoto 5**
- **Photoshop CS**
- **Photoshop Elements**

**Our experts reveal the top editing tricks you just gotta know!**

WHITEN THOSE  
CHOPPERS

SOFTEN  
SHINY SKIN

REMOVE  
UNSIGHTLY  
BLEMISHES

REVEAL  
SHADOW DETAILS

SUBDUE  
UNFORTUNATE  
COLOR CHOICES



**THE KID-FRIENDLY MAC**

Learn how to protect your Mac from your kids—and your kids from the Web

## HOW TO:

- ➔ Travel Smart with Your iBook or PowerBook
- ➔ Turn Your Mac into a Virtual Remote
- ➔ Update Your Browser's Favorites Icons

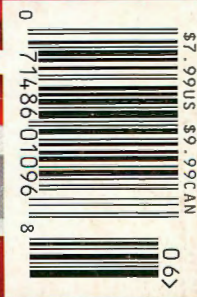
## REVIEWED:

- ➔ Olympus Stylus 500 camera
- ➔ GarageKey MIDI keyboard
- ➔ OneTouch II backup drive
- ➔ Adobe Acrobat 7.0 Pro

**SONOS DIGITAL MUSIC SYSTEM**  
...and 17 more



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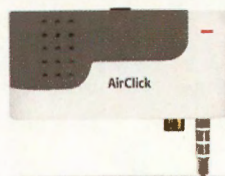
# Clicks well with others

\$39<sup>99</sup>



## AirClick Remote Control for iPod

- Control your iPod, iPod mini, or computer from up to 60 feet away
- Uses RF signals that travel through walls for remote control use anywhere in the house
- Tiny remote attaches to backpack, bike, steering wheel - anywhere for on-the-go control



\$39<sup>99</sup>



## iTalk iPod Voice Recorder

- Internal microphone and laptop quality speaker
- Connect external microphone or headphones
- Passthrough jack for headphones or additional speaker
- Automatic level control for perfect recordings

\$14<sup>99</sup>



## Lapel Mic Multipurpose Stereo Microphone

- Self-powered microphone with stereo-quality sound
- Swivel clip for easy attachment
- Connects directly to iTalk, iMic, or PowerWave

\$35



## iTrip FM Transmitter for iPod

- The only FM Transmitter designed exclusively for the iPod & iPod mini
- Powered from the iPod - no batteries necessary
- Choose any empty station from 87.7 to 107.9, and change your iTrip stations directly from the iPod

\$19<sup>99</sup>



## TuneJuice Battery Backup for iPod and iPod mini

- Provides up to 8 hours of additional power to iPod
- Uses any disposable or rechargeable 9-volt battery
- Carry emergency iPod power wherever you go
- Works with any dockable iPod or iPod mini



\$29<sup>99</sup>

## iVault

### Aluminum Case for iPod shuffle

- Elegant, protective enclosure for iPod shuffle
- Available in Silver, Purple, Blue and Red
- Four screws ensure that your iPod shuffle is completely secure and only comes out of the iVault when you want it to
- Includes 36" USB cable for connectivity while your iPod shuffle is protected



\$69<sup>99</sup>

## radioSHARK

### AM/FM Radio with time-shift recording

- AM/FM radio for your Mac or PC
- Record your favorite programs while you listen or schedule recordings for later
- Easily transfer recordings to iTunes
- Pause and resume live radio or scroll back in time and record



\$39<sup>99</sup>

## iMic

### USB Audio Interface

- Adds stereo audio inputs and outputs to any USB equipped Mac or PC
- Includes everything needed to record albums and tapes to make MP3s and CDs
- Plug-and-Play simple, no install required



\$79<sup>99</sup>



## RoadTrip

### FM Transmitter, Charger, and Cradle

- Power and charge an iPod or iPod mini from any 12-volt cigarette lighter
- RoadTrip transmitter module works separately as an FM transmitter for your home computer
- Transmits on a full range of frequencies from 88.1 to 107.9



\$45

## PowerMate

### USB Multimedia Controller Knob

- Eliminates repetitive keystrokes
- Great control for iTunes, iMovie, and GarageBand
- Programmable for any application
- Now in Brushed Aluminum and Black

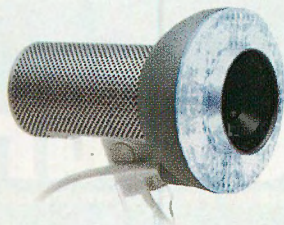


\$39<sup>99</sup>

## SightLight

### FireWire Light for iSight

- Custom-designed Fresnel-based lens diffuses light to even out shadows
- Auto setting automatically senses the amount of ambient room light and adjusts its output accordingly
- Shares the iSight's FireWire connection



\$14<sup>99</sup>

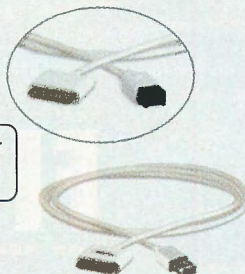
\$19<sup>99</sup>



## Dock400 & Dock800

### Dock Cables for iPod

- Take advantage of the FireWire 800 or FireWire 400 port on your computer – no more unplugging another device to sync your iPod
- Charges and syncs your iPod or iPod mini
- Connects to iPod or iPod Dock

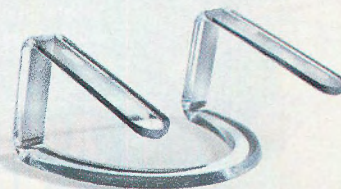


\$39<sup>99</sup>

## iCurve


### Invisible Laptop Stand

- Keeps laptop cool with maximum air circulation
- Raises laptop screen to the perfect height and creates room on the desktop for an external keyboard and mouse
- Fits all Apple PowerBooks and iBooks

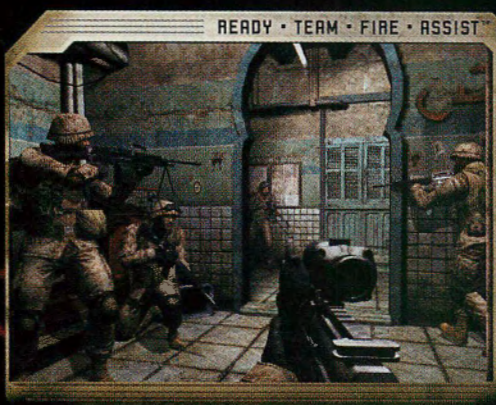




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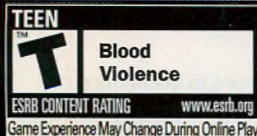
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# MacAddict

## features



### 16 Photo E.R.

Remember that awful digital photo that you thought was beyond repair? There's hope! We tell you how to treat ailing images with iPhoto, Photoshop Elements, and Photoshop CS. **by Johnathon Williams**

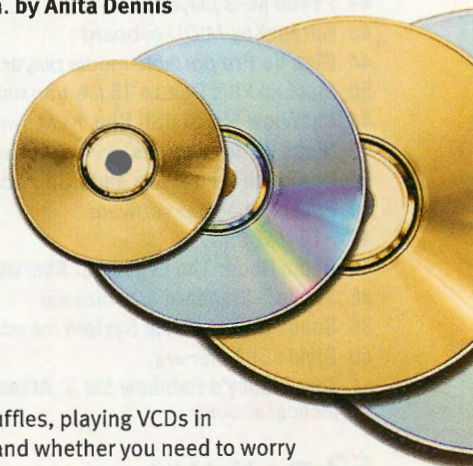


### 26 The Kid-Friendly Mac

Summer's here! That means barbecues, swimming pools, and kids with a whole lot of free time to play with your Mac. Here's how to prepare for a summer of safe fun. **by Anita Dennis**

### 32 Burning Desires

Don't know the difference between DVD+R and DVD-R DL? There's a whole wide, confusing world of optical media out there—our Field Guide will help you navigate through it. **by Fredric Paul**



## how to

#### 54 Ask Us

This month, we answer questions about shouting iPod shuffles, playing VCDs in your Mac, what to do if you forget your master password, and whether you need to worry about spyware infiltrating your Mac. Also: a list of Unix command-line commands that everyone can use.

#### 56 Boost Your Wireless Connection

Our resident mad scientist delves into the seedy underworld of Pringles cans and parabolic reflectors to make an AirPort superantenna. **by Niko Coucouvanis**

#### 59 Be a 'Book-Savvy Traveler



Does it seem like you're always on a plane or train? Here's how to ensure that your iBook or PowerBook is a powerful traveling companion and not a wimpy nuisance. **by Russ Hunter**

#### 60 Turn Your Mac into a Virtual Remote

Learn how to control your TV, CD player, Robosapien, and other IR-controlled peripherals with your Mac. You'll never have to look under the cushions again. **by Dave Prochnow**



#### 62 Flush Favorites Icons from Any Browser's Cache

Here's how to make all your favorite Web sites' favicons (those cute little icons in the address bar) show correctly in your browser. **by Nick Muerdter**





# every month

## 08 Editors' Page

Over 25,000 people visit MacAddict.com each day. Maybe you should, too.

## 10 Get Info

This month, find out what's new in Adobe CS2; catch up with the latest in imaging and graphics hardware and apps; and learn how the U.S. Marine Corps helped shape Destineer's tactical shooter, Close Combat: First to Fight. Also, two iPod cases duke it out for our iPod Case of the Month crown.

## 35 Reviews

- 43 **321 LCD Monitor** LCD monitor
- 37 **Acrobat 7.0 Pro** PDF-production software
- 52 **Big Tiki Drive** USB flash drive
- 48 **Doom 3** first-person shooter
- 52 **Dora the Explorer Animal Adventures** kids' game
- 46 **DRX-710UL-T** DVD burner
- 46 **Final Draft 7** movie-script software
- 41 **FW-1082** FireWire audio/MIDI interface
- 49 **FY400** MP3 player
- 48 **GarageKey** MIDI keyboard
- 44 **Giga Vu Pro** portable media player
- 50 **MacLinkPlus Deluxe 15** file-translation utility
- 44 **MiniView Micro USB Plus** KVM switch
- 42 **Nisus Writer Express** word processor
- 50 **OneTouch II** FireWire and USB backup drive
- 49 **Popcorn** backup software
- 47 **RT5** disk array
- 45 **Robin Hood: The Legend of Sherwood** strategy game
- 38 **Shade 7 Standard** 3D software
- 36 **Sonos Digital Music System** music-streaming system
- 40 **Stylus 500** camera
- 51 **Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six 3: Athena Sword** tactical shooter

## 53 The Hot List

We'd spend our own hard-earned money on these products.

## QUICK TIPS

FROM THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

### ➔ GOING TOO FAR

When fixing your photos in iPhoto or one of the Photoshop twins, how do you know how much adjustment is enough? The easiest way: Push it to where you know it's too much, and then come back a bit. **From "Photo E.R.," p16.**



### ➔ ONCE YOU POP...

If you want to boost your AirPort signal, you could crunch out a bunch of signal-frequency and wavelength physics equations. Or, you could just crunch some Pringles Potato Crisps and use the leftover can. **From "Boost Your Wireless Connection," p56.**



### ➔ DANCE, DOOM 3, DANCE!

If you let Doom 3 set your video settings for you, you can improve performance by digging into the Advanced settings and turning off power hogs such as High-Quality Special Effects, Anti-Aliasing, Shadows, and Speculars. **From Reviews, p48.**



## 78 Log Out

### 78 Letters

This month you've sent us a collection of emotional responses to our Mac mini autopsy, opinions on what makes an iPod "special," and a strange discovery buried within a classic TV ad.

### 79 Contest

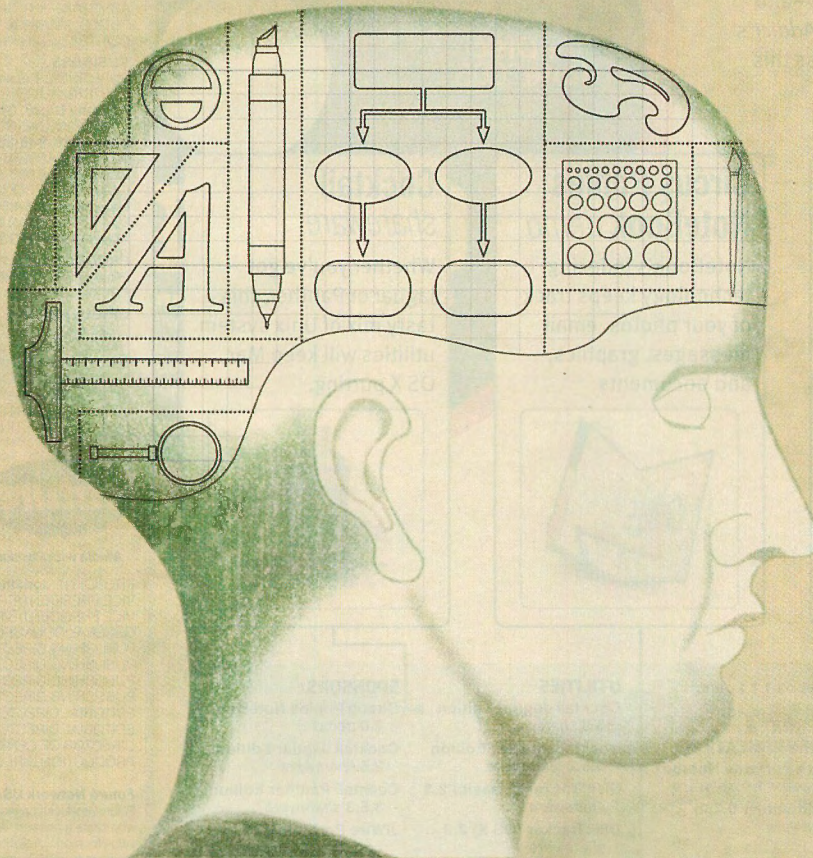
Nikon's awesome D70 digital SLR could be yours—all you need to do is make us laugh!

### 80 Shut Down

Look what we discovered in Adobe Photoshop CS2!



# OmniGraffle



## **OmniGraffle**

Pronunciation: ɔm' nē-grăf'l

Noun: 1. A powerful, yet easy to use Mac OS X diagramming and drawing application. 2. A tool to create org charts, family trees, flow charts, network diagrams, school projects, posters, CD covers, and almost anything else you can think of. 3. A great way to make all your PC-using friends really, really jealous.

Learn more and download a free trial at [www.omnigroup.com/junemacaddict](http://www.omnigroup.com/junemacaddict)





# the disc

Six diverting games, nine great graphics apps and power plug-ins, a toolbox-full of handy utilities, and more. This month's Disc will keep you chuckling, creating, and feeling mighty, mighty productive—and if you're nostalgic for MacAddict's PC-bashing past, don't miss this month's Staff Video.

## Peak LE trial

This pro-quality audio editor features looping capabilities, nondestructive editing, effects, and more.



## Circus Ponies NoteBook demo

NoteBook's indexing technology keeps track of your photos, email messages, graphics, and documents.



## Cocktail shareware

Whether you've got Jaguar or Panther, this tasty mix of Unix system utilities will keep Mac OS X purring.



### AUDIO & MUSIC

Peak LE 4.1.3 trial  
Roland GS-10 Tips demo video  
SoundSoap 2 demo video  
WireTap Pro 1.0.1 shareware

### DEVELOPMENT

REALbasic 5.5.4 demo

### FUN & GAMES

Bubble Trouble X 1.0.2 shareware  
Burning Monkey Mahjong 2005 shareware  
Darwinia 1.1.0 shareware  
Doom 3 Flashlight Mod 0.1 freeware  
GooBall 1.0 shareware  
Robin Hood 1.1 demo

### GRAPHICS & MULTIMEDIA

20/20 Color MD demo  
Backdrop Designer demo  
Dfine 1.0 demo  
Mystical Tint Tone and Color demo  
Neat Image 2.22 demo  
nik Color Efex Pro 2.0 demo  
nik Sharpener Pro 1.03 demo  
Picture Rescue 1.1.0 trial

### Shoobox 1.1.1 demo

### INTERNET & COMMUNICATION

JiWire Portable Hotspot Locator 1.0 freeware  
MacStumbler 0.75b freeware

### PRODUCTIVITY

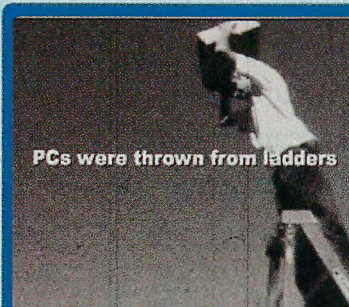
Circus Ponies NoteBook 2.0 demo  
CopyWrite 2.2.1 shareware  
Final Draft 7 demo  
Nisus Writer Express 2.1.1 demo  
The Omni Group Software Bundle shareware

### UTILITIES

Cocktail Jaguar Edition 3.5 shareware  
Cocktail Panther Edition 3.5.3 shareware  
DiskTracker (Classic) 2.3 shareware  
DiskTracker (OS X) 2.3 shareware  
Fink 0.7.1 freeware  
FinkCommander 0.5.3 freeware  
FontBook 4.2.1 shareware  
Robosaplen VRC Sample Templates templates

### SPONSORS

Circus Ponies NoteBook 2.0 demo  
Cocktail Jaguar Edition 3.5 shareware  
Cocktail Panther Edition 3.5.3 shareware  
JiWire Portable Hotspot Locator 1.0 freeware  
The Omni Group Software Bundle shareware  
Peak LE 4.1.3 trial  
Picture Rescue 1.1.0 trial  
Roland GS-10 Tips demo video  
SoundSoap 2 demo video



## Staff Video: The End of PCs

The year was 2010. Mac addicts worldwide, fed up with Microsoft's blatant theft of the Mac's elegance, launched an anti-PC blitzkrieg. World War PC was hell.

# MacAddict

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VERSION 7



# MacAddict on the Web



Have you visited MacAddict.com recently? You should. In the words of the immortal Fats Waller, "The Joint Is Jumpin'!"

Check out our new daily news summaries, for example. Each weekday, our editors sum up the most important—or, at minimum, the most ludicrous—happenings of the day, and point you to related Web sites for more information. Where else but MacAddict.com could you learn not only about the most recent announcements from

Apple, Adobe, and others, but also about PodBrix (<http://podbrix.com>), the iPod hat ([www.smallegan.com/blog/?p=6](http://www.smallegan.com/blog/?p=6)), and the University of Arizona's cheesecake 'n' beefcake iPod shuffle-based contest ([www.ipose.org](http://www.ipose.org))?

When you make MacAddict.com a daily habit, you'll join a vast and growing army of addicts. Just last month, well over 350,000 people visited the site, viewing a total of 2.3 million pages. Interestingly, about 35 percent of our visitors access the site from Windows PCs; pity these poor Mac addicts, forced to use PCs at work—but applaud them for feeding their Mac addiction on company time!

And then there are the fabled, frenetic, full-o-fans Forums—MacAddict.com's reader-fueled clearinghouse for advice, opinions, rumors, and more. Forum members total, at last count, around 16,000 creatively sobriquetted users worldwide, from 000111one111000 to zzcoop, and their numbers are growing. The Forums contain nearly 850,000 postings on over 55,000 different topics, including well-informed tech talk, righteous rants, gatherings of gamers, ruminations of rumormongers, cries of distress (followed by helpful hand holding), and my favorite: the MacAddict Readers forum, in which devoted readers tell me how to do my job. Don't get me wrong, though—I read every posting in that forum, often contribute, and always appreciate the posters' passions.

There's also an archive of each and every review published in *MacAddict* since May of 1997—trés useful if you need buying advice for that Nikon Coolpix 5000 camera you found on eBay, but you can't track down your copy of our Apr/02 issue. Finally, MacAddict.com also includes all the normal customer-service pages you'd expect a magazine's Web site to offer: subscription info, missing-issue and Disc-replacement help, address-change notification, and the all-important gift-subscription form.

So log on, learn, share your thoughts, complain to customer service—or just have fun. Yesterday 25,316 people visited MacAddict.com; we'd love you to raise that to 25,317.

Enjoy,

*R.k*

## coming soon: july 2005

Here's what our editors are preparing for the next issue of *MacAddict*.

Whatever you're looking for on the Web, we'll show you how to find it with our Field Guide to **specialized search engines**. And don't be the last living human not to have a blog—we'll teach you **how to get blogg'in'** quickly, easily, and cheaply. We'll also show you how to make your own **automatic backup system** out of AppleScript and a FireWire drive, how to **become an iChat power chatter**, and how to use iPhoto to create **the best dang slide shows you've ever seen**. We'll have reviews of Apple's **Final Cut Express HD**, ProSoft's **Drive Genius**, Better Energy Systems' **Solio** solar iPod charger, and a lot more.

## STAFF RANTS

Q. What would the ideal Mac-focused Web site include?



**Sean Molloy** PROPHET OF THE INFOPOCALYPSE  
**What would the ideal Mac-focused Web site include?**  
It would start by saying, "Welcome to my home page! I kiss you!" Then it's all dancing hamsters, Flash-animated cartoons of singing presidents, banners daring me to punch a duck to win a mortgage, and pop-up blogs. Ah, but 'tis only a dream.



**Niko Coucouvanis** BITTER, SCARRED WEB REFUGEE  
**What would the ideal Mac-focused Web site include?**  
All I know is, it'd have nothing to do with me. My advice: Read a book—or better yet, a magazine, you hippie.



**Roman Loyola** DOT BOMBER  
**What would the ideal Mac-focused Web site include?**  
It should aggregate heuristically filtered personalized content utilizing the latest advances in push-technology solution systems for desktop accessibility and enhanced functionality with the information superhighway. (By the way, do employees at this Web site get stock options?)



**Peter Marshutz** NET DIVER  
**What would the ideal Mac-focused Web site include?**  
My dream Mac Web site would be a one-stop shop for troubleshooting, help guides, tips, and tutorials for all the Mac programs and hardware I use.



**Jake Widman** TURNING SAFE SEARCH OFF  
**What would the ideal Mac-focused Web site include?**  
Depends. This week I need a directory to old Mac models so I'll know whether I'm buying a battery for a Pismo, Wallstreet, or Lombard PowerBook (or whether they all use the same one). Next week I might want the video of Steve introducing the first Mac. Sadly, those aren't going to be on the same Web site.



**Mark Rosenthal** FREELoader  
**What would the ideal Mac-focused Web site include?**  
Lots of links to freeware Mac utilities, apps, and so on. I wouldn't go to a Web site just to learn something—I want to get something I can use.



**Max Monsieur Élan**  
**What would the ideal Mac-focused Web site include?**  
I already know of a few: <http://homepage.mac.com/oatmeal/MAF/maxes/maxes.html>, [http://members.cox.net/registered\\_user/maxes](http://members.cox.net/registered_user/maxes), and <http://homepage.mac.com/theconfused1/Public/smilies.html>. Pure, unadulterated genius, if I do say so myself. And I do.



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**Welsh**  
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**Swedish**  
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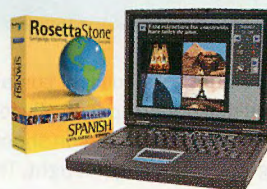
*- Michael Murphy  
Texas, USA*

**"Stupendous...the juxtaposition of text, sound and picture was masterful. The quality of both sound and graphics was first rate."**

*- The Boston Globe*

**Each fully interactive course includes:**

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# MODERN WARFARE

Who could provide better war-gaming advice than the United States Marine Corps?



Meet your new best friend—one of them, anyway. About 15 of *First to Fight*'s stock characters are based on real-life Marines.

Destineer's new *Close Combat: First to Fight* combines the battlefield-strategy realism of the old *Close Combat* series with a cutting-edge 3D engine developed specifically for the game. Although the series has evolved from its roots as a pure strategy simulation in 1996 to a tactical first-person shooter, the emphasis has always been on providing the most realistic military action possible—and with *First to Fight*, Destineer got it right. The developers called on active-duty U.S. Marines to play a key role in developing the game's AI (artificial intelligence); they even chose a fitting setting for their virtual war: the ravaged streets of Beirut, Lebanon.

## MARINES BEHIND THE SCENES

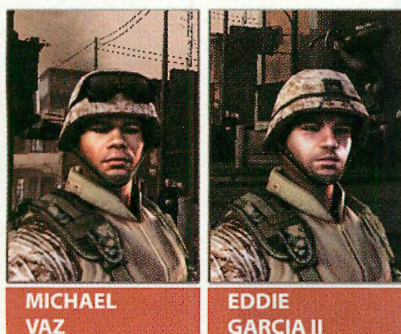
Amid the recent deluge of war-based tactical shooters—the Medal of Honor and Tom Clancy series, to name a few—*First to Fight* stands out by bringing unprecedented realism to the genre. Not with more blood and gore, but with smarter AI controlling both your Marine fire team and other characters: enemy soldiers, insurgents, and civilians alike. The result is a game that plays more like a simulation than a shooter—so much so that the U.S. Marine Corps uses *First to Fight* to teach recruits about tactical formations.

The USMC advised Destineer on several fronts during the game's development, including Marine and enemy AI, combat formations and tactics, and what USMC advisors claim is the ultimate secret weapon in any combat situation: the human will. *First to Fight* carefully calculates your characters' morale and discipline against a psychological model to determine their effectiveness in combat; it also uses this model to determine whether your enemies run for the hills or surrender when you effectively apply your superior firepower and tactics.



Don't forget your night-vision goggles.





**Real faces. Real names. Real Marines.**

### MARINES IN THE GAME

Yet more military realism comes in the form of your Marine compatriots: Many of the game's characters are based on actual active-duty Marines. We're relieved to report that as of press time, all of the real Marines portrayed in the game had returned safely from their latest deployments—some sporting medals for service and valor.

Just as in the real Marine Corps, your fire team is your family in First to Fight. If your main gunner gets shot, you don't leave him there to die—you call in the medivac. Similarly, your leadership and success in battle directly affects your team's morale and discipline—when you're doing well, you can almost see the resolve in their steely eyes and no-time-for-shaving stubbled faces.

### NO ONE FIGHTS ALONE

Despite what *Rambo* and U.S. Army recruiters imply about an army of one, First to Fight is all about teamwork. The game is built around two of the USMC's prime acronyms: RTFA and MAGTF.

RTFA (Ready-Team-Fire-Assist) is the standard Marine infantry-unit formation; it places a trained, eagle-eyed killer at each of the team leader's flanks and one watching the rear. As the team leader (the *T* in RTFA), you're the point man, forging ahead and making decisions while your mates take care of the hostiles that are lurking in alleys, doorways, and windows. When you approach an intersection, your team falls into the appropriate RTFA formation to secure the situation: Ready, your right-side rifleman, watches high windows and rooftops across the street, as well as the intersection itself when you get to it; Fire, your main gunner,

covers the far side of the intersection with a big sawgun; and Assist, the assistant gunner, secures the rear. At this point, you could rally the squad and storm the building, kicking ass and taking names, but you're fighting like a real Marine now, backed by the most massive fighting force the world has ever seen; sit back, light up a square, and call in your MAGTF (Marine Air-Ground Task Force) for a precision strike by land-based tanks and armored assault vehicles, gun-laden choppers, mortar shells from above, or a deadly Marine sniper team.

### UNDER THE HOOD

Realism is great, but it doesn't mean much if your Mac isn't equipped to handle it. Unlike other recent games with power-hungry 3D engines that require mucho Mac muscle to provide eye-popping effects, Destineer designed First to Fight's new engine to be lean and mean. We haven't seen the final version yet, but the volumetric shadows, specular effects, and realistic backdrops in our pre-release version looked fabulous and played smoothly on a relatively low-powered Mac (a 1.33GHz

**CLOSE COMBAT:  
FIRST TO FIGHT**

**PUBLISHER**  
Destineer/  
MacSoft Games

**URL** [www.firsttofight.com](http://www.firsttofight.com)

**PRICE** \$39.95

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS**  
1GHz G4, Mac OS 10.2.8 or later,  
256MB RAM, 32MB VRAM (nVidia  
GeForce2 MX or ATI Radeon 7500  
recommended), 3GB disk space

**AVAILABLE** Now

PowerBook with 64MB of VRAM).

Another benefit of First to Fight's new engine is allows Destineer to develop the game for simultaneous release on Mac, PC, and Xbox—in fact, Destineer even hinted that the Mac version might arrive a week ahead of the others. The developers have been continually tweaking and optimizing the engine with Mac performance in mind; as a result, the system requirements are lower for Macs than they are for PCs—a welcome reversal of the standard rules of engagement.—*Niko Coucouvanis*

## NEW STUFF

### ▶ STEADY SHOOTER Konica Minolta DiMAGE Z5

\$500 (street)

<http://konicaminolta.com>

Available: Now

Instead of using a conventional in-lens corrective system to counteract the effects of camera shake, this 5-megapixel camera features an anti-shake mechanism that moves the CCD. The Z5 also has a 12x optical zoom.



**Cure your case of  
the photo jitters.**

IMAGE COURTESY OF MINOLTA

### ▶ PODCAST PACKAGE Industrial Audio Software iPodcast Producer

\$249.95

[www.industrialaudiosoftware.com](http://www.industrialaudiosoftware.com)

Available: June



**Make your  
podcast  
production  
easier.**

No more jumping from app to app, podcasters—you can now record, edit, and upload your podcast all from within one app. After recording your audio, Producer's audio editor lets you apply effects such as audio normalization, eliminate noise and gaps, tweak EQ, and more. You can add RSS tags for your feed, designate the destination URL, and upload your podcast with the built-in FTP client.

### ▶ ALL-IN-ONE DISPLAY Samsung SyncMaster 930MP

\$649

[www.samsung.com](http://www.samsung.com)

Available: Now

Now there's no reason to ever get up from your Mac—except for bathroom breaks. Samsung's latest 19-inch LCD has a 1,280-by-1,024-pixel native resolution, a built-in TV tuner and FM radio, plus a remote control if you want to sit on your couch.



**Display, TV,  
and FM radio.**

IMAGE COURTESY OF SAMSUNG



## DROOLWORTHY

Sexy Stuff We Can't Wait to Get Our Mitts On



### View from the Floor ↑

Sony-Ericsson's **ROB-1** (price not set at press time, [www.sonyericsson.com](http://www.sonyericsson.com)) isn't a caster that fell off your sofa; it's a remote-controlled camera that uses three wheels to move within a 30-foot radius from its controller: any Java-enabled cell phone that supports the JSR-82 API (application programming interface), such as Sony's P900 or P910. ROB-1 is 4.33 inches in diameter, takes pictures at 640-by-480-pixel resolution, and uses a Linux-based operating system.

IMAGE COURTESY OF SONY

### Look Ma! One Hand! →

Belkin's **Nostromo SpeedPad n52** (\$49.99, [www.belkin.com](http://www.belkin.com)) is for hardcore gamers who want to put all of their controls in one hand, leaving the other hand free for who knows what. The controller has a directional thumb pad, fire button, scroll wheel, and lil' keyboard. All of the controls are programmable.



IMAGE COURTESY OF BELKIN



## THE FUTURE OF MAC GAMING

In March, game-community insiders invaded San Francisco for the Game Developers Conference, the official trade event “by game developers for game developers,” and a great place to get a glimpse of the future of Mac gaming.

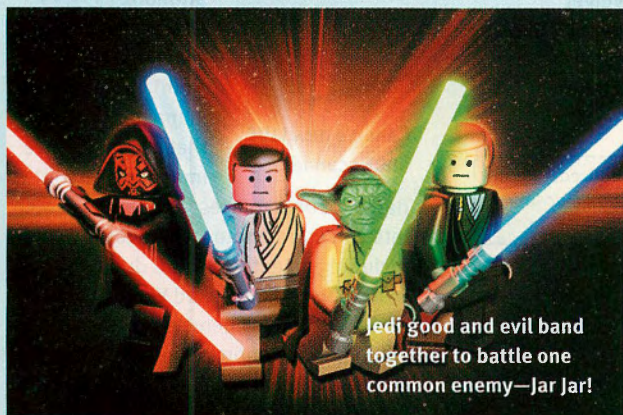
Epic Games showed off their new Unreal Engine 3.0, with new features such as the ability to load several levels simultaneously—no more annoying load times to break up the action. A demo of an avalanche showcased the new engine’s processing ability by hurling 600 boulders down a hill; each one reacted realistically to collisions and cast its own shadow smoothly. Microsoft Game Studios will be using this engine in their future games—will the next Halo be wrought from Mac-friendly Unreal technology?

Also at the GDC, the seventh annual Independent Games Festival (IGF)—the Sundance of independent games—honored **Gish** (\$19.99, [www.chroniclogic.com](http://www.chroniclogic.com)) as Independent Game



In **Gish**, you play a gooey tarball frolicking in a sewer. Okaaaay...

of the Year. Check out the finalists and Student Showcase participants at [www.gamespot.com/igf](http://www.gamespot.com/igf); many of the games are Mac-compatible.—Matt Osborn



### USE THE LEGO, LUKE

► Battle against the Dark Side of the Force by reliving *Star Wars: Episode I, II, and III*—as a little plastic block! In **LEGO Star Wars: The Video Game**, you can duel a cute lil’ Darth Maul, pilot a Starfighter, use the Force to possess others, solve puzzles, and build stuff out of—you guessed it—virtual LEGOs. Play alone as Obi-Wan Kenobi, Anakin Skywalker, Yoda, and more, or battle the blocky Dark Side with a friend. It is your tiny, plastic destiny!—MO

#### LEGO Star Wars: The Video Game

Price \$29.99  
Available August 2005  
Aspyr Media  
[www.aspyr.com](http://www.aspyr.com)

### MODEL TRAINS WITHOUT THE GLUE

► If you love model railroads or trains in general, you’ll be all over (or is it all aboard?) **Trainz Railroad Simulator 2004**—and yeah, we know it’s now 2005; TRS2K4 first rolled out of the PC roundhouse last year. In Trainz, you can manage speedy passenger trains, hefty logging trains negotiating dizzying mountain ranges, and more. If that sounds like too much responsibility, you can simply play railroad boss-man and keep your engineers on schedule through their daily routines. Boredom, however, is not an option, since you can choose from 50 different locomotives traversing tracks all around the world.—MO

#### Trainz Railroad Simulator 2004

Price TBA  
Available TBA  
Auran  
[www.auran.com](http://www.auran.com)



Ah, the ol’ 5:13, right on time.

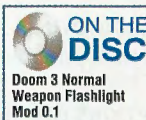
### TIPS & TRICKS: DOOM 3

You’ve survived **Doom 3’s** (see *Reviews*, p48) demon-infested Mars colony, opened all the coded lockers, gone to hell, and read every email without selling your soul. So now what?

**TAPE A FLASHLIGHT TO YOUR GUN** Download the Doom 3 Normal Weapon Flashlight Mod 0.1 from [www.castmydream.com/d3nwfm.zip](http://www.castmydream.com/d3nwfm.zip) (or get it off this month’s Disc) and put it

into the /Doom 3/base folder. Yeah, there are other duct-tape mods, but most of them will crash the game.

**PUNCH A BUNCH O’ BIRDS** Score 25,000 or more in Super Turkey Punch 3 in the kitchen, and you’ll get a message from the HR department. It’s not about your 401(k).—MO







## iPOD CASE OF THE MONTH

The *MacAddict* offices are a shambles thanks to some hard-hittin' debate over this month's iPod Case of the Month. Some of us liked Marware's MetroVue iPod mini cases (\$39.95 for a package of three, [www.marware.com](http://www.marware.com)), while others preferred Pacific Design's iPod mini Flip Case (\$24.99, <http://pacificdesign.com>). Fortunately, our iPods were unscathed during the ruckus thanks to these cases—so we called it a tie.

Marware's MetroVue encloses your mini in vinyl, and its flip cover has a Velcro latch. MetroVues come in two sets of colors that Marware identifies as the Guypak (bold colors) and Girlpak (pastels), with three cases per package. Each case includes Marware's Multidapt clip, which you use with Marware's iPod Mobility Pack (\$19.95)—a set of holders and clips, including a belt clip, car holder, and lanyard. MetroVues are also available for standard-size iPods for \$29.95 each.

Pacific Design's Flip Case is constructed of what the company calls "Velvet Polyester," and it uses magnets to keep the flap closed. Colors include Big Sky Blue, Luscious Lime, Precious Pink, and Tangerine Orange. The belt clip that comes with your iPod mini still slides perfectly into place on your Flip Case—covered mini.

—Michelle Victoria



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK MADEO

**Yipes! Stripes! It's the Flip Case (left) and the MetroVue (right)!**

**SUBMITYOURCASE** Whether your iPod case is a custom-made one-off or mass produced, you can submit it for Case-of-the-Month consideration—just send it to iPod Case of the Month, *MacAddict*, 150 North Hill Dr., Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005. Please note that we cannot return cases.

## BUG OF THE MONTH



Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh

### AVOID BAD WAKE-UP CALLS

Most desktop Macs can be awakened from sleep by simply pressing any key on the keyboard or pressing the power button for less than one second. (Be careful not to hold the power button down for five seconds, or you'll shut down your Mac.) However, some Macs get cranky and refuse to wake up, presenting you with a completely blank screen and an unresponsive system or—worse yet—a kernel panic. When Macs exhibit these symptoms, they won't react to network pings, recognize newly inserted media, or allow network-administrator access. Here are a few things you can do to help avoid these and other wake-from-sleep issues.

**EXTERNAL DEVICES** Disconnect external USB or FireWire devices when they're not in use or before your Mac goes to sleep. Also, avoid disconnecting or connecting the power adapter on Apple notebooks while they are asleep.

**NETWORK ACTIVITY** Stop all network activity. That means turning off your AirPort if you're wireless or disconnecting your Ethernet cable. This can be particularly effective at preventing blank screens at wake-up.

**BLUETOOTH** In System Preferences > Keyboard & Mouse, turn off the option to allow Bluetooth devices to wake your system.

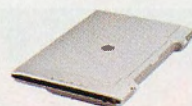
**OPTIONS OFF** Turn off all special automatic sleep options in System Preferences > Energy Saver > Options.

## What's New

GRAPHICS & IMAGING

Adobe released an updated **Camera Raw plug-in for Photoshop** (free, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)) for six new digital cameras: Canon's EOS 20D, EOS-1Ds Mark II, PowerShot S70, and PowerShot G6; and Konica Minolta's DiMAGE A200 and Maxxum 7D. Akvis unveiled **Chameleon 2.1** (\$69, [www.akvis.com](http://www.akvis.com)), a Photoshop plug-in that blends images inserted into new backgrounds automatically.

KavaSoft announced **Shoobox** (\$39.99 Express, \$79.99 Pro, [www.kavasoft.com](http://www.kavasoft.com)), a photo-management tool that can categorize images based on



**Canon's new LiDE 500F scanner.**

dates, people, places, and things. It also lets you store photos wherever you want, including an external hard drive.

Nemetschek released **VectorWorks 11.5** (\$995, [www.nemetschek.net](http://www.nemetschek.net)), with interface improvements, better speed and reliability, a sketch tool to make images look hand drawn, and more. Pantone released new **Pantone Matching System** formula guides (\$89 to \$299, [www.pantone.com](http://www.pantone.com)), which have larger color swatches for matching colors. Ingram Publishing has released **Font Library 1000** (£139 or \$266 at press time, [www.ingram-publishing.co.uk](http://www.ingram-publishing.co.uk)), a collection of 1,000 Adobe PostScript Type 1 and TrueType fonts. Corbis has added **Marvel Super Heroes** (prices vary by license, <http://pro.corbis.com>) to its library of images available for licensing. Available characters include Spider-Man, Wolverine, and Elektra.

Hamrick Software's **VueScan 8.1.41** (\$49.95 standard, \$89.95 professional, [www.hamrick.com](http://www.hamrick.com)) now lets you create PDFs of scanned images without having to import the scans into Adobe Acrobat. Canon released the **CanoScan LiDE 500F** (\$79.99, [www.canonusa.com](http://www.canonusa.com)) scanner, which has a maximum 2,400-by-4,800-dpi resolution.—Michelle Victoria

IMAGE COURTESY OF CANON



# ADOBE CS2 ON ITS WAY

Creative pros, get ready for Adobe Creative Suite 2, which updates Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, and GoLive. CS2 Premium (\$1,199, \$549 if upgrading from Adobe CS) also includes Acrobat 7.0 Professional, (see *Reviews*, p37), an updated Version Cue, and a new utility, Adobe Bridge.

CS2's system requirements—at least as announced—are relatively humble: a G3 or faster, Mac OS 10.2.8 or later, 384MB of RAM (512MB to 1GB recommended), 3GB of disk space, 1,024-by-768-pixel resolution, a CD-ROM drive, Adobe PostScript Level 2 or 3 for PostScript printing, and QuickTime 6.5.—Michelle Victoria

## BRIDGE

The new addition to Creative Suite is a file-management tool derived from Photoshop's file browser. Bridge provides scalable file previews and allows you to add metadata to your files so you can perform extensive file searches.

## GOLIVE

This Web-authoring app has enhanced live rendering, visual CSS authoring, a Quick Start developer mode that lets you work in code only, Six Apart TypePad and Movable Type authoring for mobile blogging, automated favicon creation, and more.



Adobe's Bridge utility makes it easier to manage your files.

## ILLUSTRATOR

Illustrator's new features include Live Trace, a bitmap-to-vector conversion tool; Live Paint, which allows you to paint without adding layer objects; custom stroke alignment; support for scalable vector graphics and spot color; and more.

## INDESIGN

Adobe's Quark-killing page-layout app now has Object styles for quick graphics and text formatting, the ability to hide or show layers in Photoshop and PDF files, InDesign snippets that save parts of a page for use in other layouts, and enhanced support for XML.

## PHOTOSHOP

The venerable image-editing app has a slew of new features: built-in support for Camera RAW; Optical Lens Distortion to fix distortion; a Red-Eye tool; Vanishing Point, a tool for transforming perspectives; support for 32-bit High Dynamic Range; and more.

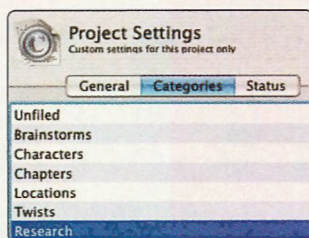
## SHAREWARE PICK OF THE MONTH

**CopyWrite 2.2** [www.bartastechnologies.com](http://www.bartastechnologies.com) \$29.95

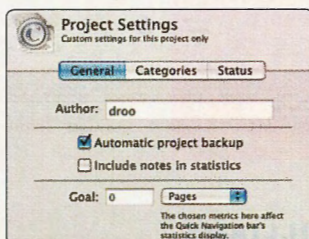


There are tons of apps out there to help you bang out your next novel, screenplay, or song, but Bartas Technology's CopyWrite can keep all your creativity organized. A CopyWrite project can contain multiple time-stamped documents, each of which can be categorized (characters, chapters, and so forth) and given a status (such as rough draft or final). You can also jot down notes for each document or for the entire project.—Andrew Tokuda

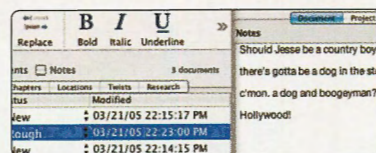
1 After you create your new project in CopyWrite, click on the Settings icon in the toolbar, then click Categories to set up categories relevant to your project.



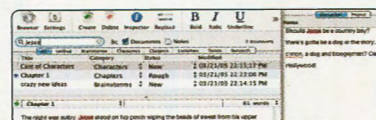
2 It's a good idea to set CopyWrite to automatically save a backup of your work. Turn this setting on in the General pane before starting.



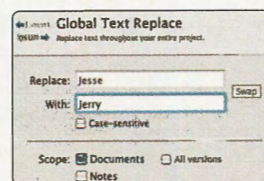
3 From the View menu, choose Notes Drawer to open a pane where you can jot down notes for the current document or for the entire project.



4 If you want enter text in the search field, CopyWrite highlights that text throughout the document.



5 To replace any text in your project (if you need to change a character's name, for example), choose Global Replace from the Edit menu.





**AS SMART AS TODAY'S DIGITAL CAMERAS ARE,  
THERE IS STILL POTENTIAL FOR A GRUESOME  
IMAGE ACCIDENT TO OCCUR. WE'LL SHOW YOU  
HOW TO PATCH UP YOUR INJURED PHOTOS.**



**PHOTO**

**BY JOHNATHON WILLIAMS**



**D**igital cameras keep getting cheaper—and smarter, too, which makes taking nice snaps easy even for imaging newbies. But no camera can ensure perfect pictures every time. Sooner or later, that must-have moment will be lost to bad lighting or poor focus. But before you drag your damaged photo to

# E.R.

the trash, take a walk through our image emergency room. Like people, photos sometimes need a little TLC, and the right treatment can make all the difference in the world. The doctor is in. Say “ahhh.” Or is it “cheese”?

## THE PATIENTS



**#1 BASIC FIRST AID P18**



**#2 SERIOUS CONDITION P20**



**#3 DOA P22**



**SPECIAL CASE: IN THE RAW P24**



## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Scalpel. Clamp. Stethoscope. (Yeah, we watch too much *ER*.) A good surgeon is nothing without the right tools, and photo doctors are no different. Fortunately, current Macs come preloaded with a solid, entry-level editor: iPhoto 5. Its Adjust dialog includes all the basics you need—brightness, contrast, crop, and so on—for making a good picture even better.

Eventually, though, everyone takes a picture that needs more help than iPhoto can offer. For these situations, the choice is between two Adobe applications: Photoshop Elements (\$89.99, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)) and Photoshop CS (\$649.99, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)). There are other options—including PhotoStudio X (\$59.99, [www.arcsoft.com](http://www.arcsoft.com)) and the free, open-source GIMP ([www.gimp.org](http://www.gimp.org))—but none have the power, elegance, or ubiquity of the Photoshop family. The names of Adobe's two apps may be similar, but the price tags couldn't be much farther apart—there's a more than \$500 difference between them.

Fortunately, the abilities of the two apps are much closer together. While Elements lacks commercial-grade features, it offers all of the essentials: strong color correction, support for

layers, healing and clone tools, as well as dozens of preloaded filters. Only CS offers CMYK mode (see “Gross Anatomy,” p25), which is a must for print publications and other prepress environments. CS also offers tools for pro-level color correction and advanced RAW manipulation, and support for channel mixing and layer masking.

The bottom line: Home users, hobbyists, and mid-level amateurs will find more than enough power in Elements. But for top-level amateurs and pros, Photoshop CS is the only way to go. Our treatments will use iPhoto, Elements, and CS as needed, but we've done our best to maximize the use of iPhoto and Elements. Hey, we're on a budget, too.

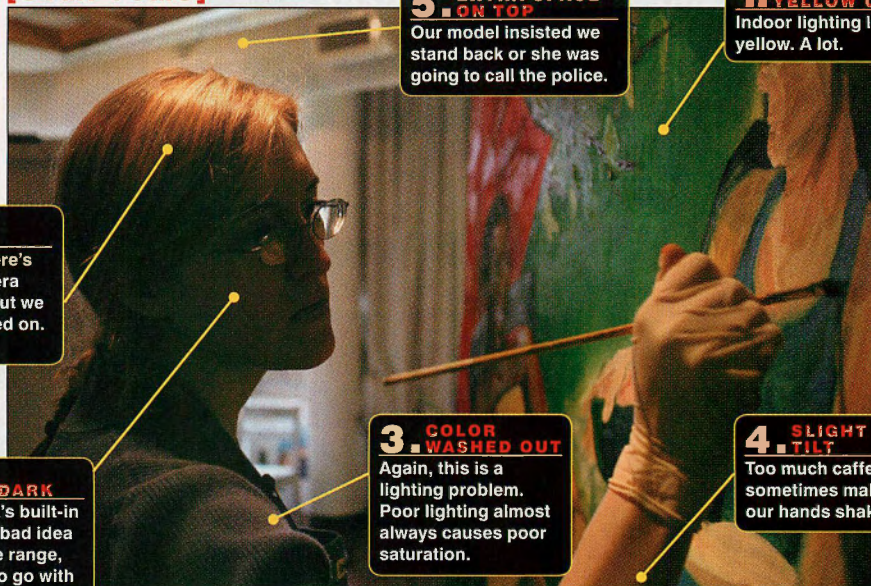
## PRE-OP

While iPhoto is fine for organizing your photos and basic editing, it's best to turn to Elements or Photoshop for the hard stuff—you can even train iPhoto to use these programs as your external editor of choice. To do so, open iPhoto > Preferences and select the General tab. Select Double-Click Photo: Opens Photos In, click the Select Application button, pick your favorite editor in

## PATIENT #1 BASIC FIRST AID

**DOCTOR:** iPhoto 5  
**DIAGNOSIS:** Nothing is critically wrong with our first patient—but there's room for improvement. Most photos look better with a little more brightness, contrast, and some sharpening—not to mention a touch of color correction. Fortunately, iPhoto 5's editing tools excel at these simple adjustments.

## [SYMPTOMS]



**6. SOFT FOCUS**  
Yeah, we know there's a reason our camera has auto focus—but we didn't have it turned on. Sue us.

**2. TOO DARK**  
Our camera's built-in flash was a bad idea at this close range, so we had to go with available light.

**5. EXTRA SPACE ON TOP**  
Our model insisted we stand back or she was going to call the police.

**1. SLIGHT YELLOW CAST**  
Indoor lighting loves yellow. A lot.

**3. COLOR WASHED OUT**  
Again, this is a lighting problem. Poor lighting almost always causes poor saturation.

**4. SLIGHT TILT**  
Too much caffeine sometimes makes our hands shake.

## [TREATMENTS]

### 1. SLIGHT YELLOW CAST

#### TREATMENT: COOL OFF

Highlight the thumbnail in iPhoto and click Edit. Click Adjust (located in the bottom right of the iPhoto edit window), and the translucent Adjust dialog will appear. iPhoto's color controls are in two sliders: Temperature and Tint. Temperature moves from blue on the left to orange on the right, and Tint moves from magenta on the left to green on the right.

To cool off a photo, move the Temperature slider toward blue to decrease the warmer orange and red tones. Our photo had a lot of green, so we gave the tint slider a nudge to the left, as

well. Generally speaking, the brighter and more even the light in your photo is, the less adjustment you will need. Work with a light hand, and trust your eyeballs. (You *did* calibrate your monitor, right?).

### 2. TOO DARK

#### TREATMENT: LIGHTEN UP

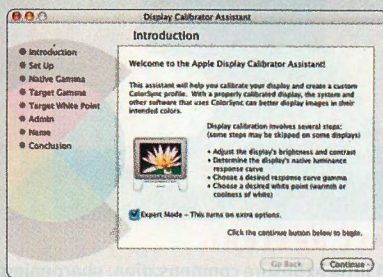
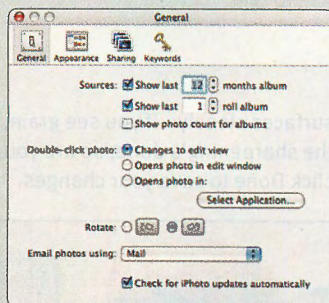
iPhoto offers two methods for brightening a photo: Exposure and Brightness. Exposure is our favorite by far because it moves the midpoint of the image's tonal range while leaving the extremes where they are, maintaining overall contrast. Brightness simply makes all the tones brighter and can make



Get iPhoto to launch Elements or Photoshop when you really need to call in a specialist.

the dialog that appears, click Open, and then close the Preferences dialog. Now double-clicking on a thumbnail in iPhoto will open the picture in the external editor you chose. You can still edit pictures in iPhoto—just highlight the thumbnail and click the Edit icon in the bottom left of iPhoto's main work area.

Before you start trying to fix any images, calibrate your monitor so you can see what you're doing.



Next, take a few minutes to calibrate your monitor. An uncalibrated display can throw a nasty color cast (usually blue) over all of your images, making your eyes untrustworthy. Open System Preferences > Displays > Color, click the Calibrate button, and an assistant will walk you through all the necessary adjustments. If your display doesn't look right when you're finished, try again. Calibrating a monitor can be tricky, and it may take you a few times to get it right.

Oh yeah, and don't forget to dig your soft, non-abrasive screen cleaner out of the drawer and wipe off your screen. How can you see through all that dust?

## IMAGE-EDITING TOOLBOX

### IPHOTO 5

**Price:** \$79 (part of iLife '05)  
**Contact:** 800-692-7753,  
www.apple.com

### PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 3

**Price:** \$89  
**Contact:** 800-833-6687,  
www.adobe.com

### PHOTOSHOP CS

**Price:** \$649  
**Contact:** 800-833-6687,  
www.adobe.com

an image look faded. In this case, increase Exposure by moving the slider to the right until the image is bright enough for you—or close to it, anyway. If Exposure alone isn't enough (it wasn't in the case of our photo), nudge the Brightness slider to the right as well.

When using either tool, keep an eye on the brightest spot in your photo. When that spot starts to look blown-out—that is, when it appears all white with no color or texture—it's usually a good idea to stop.

## 3. COLOR WASHED OUT

### TREATMENT:

### INCREASE CONTRAST AND SATURATION

Move the Contrast slider to the right to simultaneously spike shadows and highlights, increasing the tonal distance between the two. How much is enough is purely a matter of taste. Most black-and-white photographs benefit from a lot of contrast. Color photos can get by with less, but a little more is almost always better.

If your photo still looks dull, check the histogram (that graph at the bottom of the adjustment window—see “Gross Anatomy,” p25). Look on the left side

iPhoto's set of Adjust sliders put a friendly face on some basic image-improvement techniques.

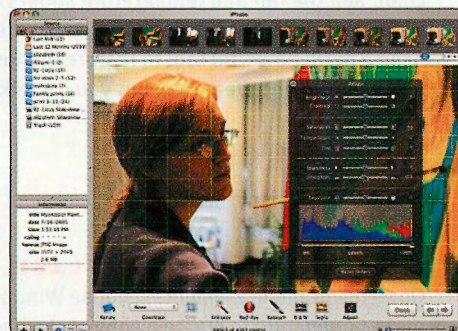
and see where the wave starts. If there's a gap between the left edge of the graph and the beginning of the wave, drag the arrow on the bottom left to where the wave starts. Ditto for the right side. It may seem counterintuitive, but by removing parts of the image that have no color in them, you're actually expanding the tonal range of everything between. The result is that the darks get darker, the lights get lighter, and the midtones adjust accordingly.

Now let's put a little color back. Move the Saturation slider to the right until the less-vibrant spots fill in. But be careful; increasing saturation tends to darken a photo—add too much, and you'll lose some of your exposure changes.

## 4. SLIGHT TILT

### TREATMENT: STRAIGHTEN

Of all iPhoto 5's editing tools, Straighten is our favorite. You can also straighten images in Elements and Photoshop, but iPhoto's method is much easier. To use Straighten, move the slider in the direction opposite the photo's slant. A yellow grid will appear to help you track changes.

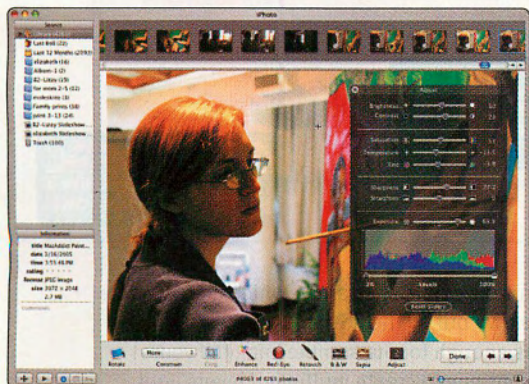


The Straighten tool lays a grid over your image, making it a snap to level.

## 5. EXTRA SPACE ON TOP

### TREATMENT: CROP

We like our photos tight (some say claustrophobic), and extra space really bugs us. To remove unwanted portions of an image,





move the cursor to the photo and drag a box around the part you want to preserve. iPhoto will shade the rest so you can see what the cropped photo will look like. If you like what you see, click the Crop tool at the bottom of the window. If not, click once on the shaded portion and try again.

**Cropping is easy—just drag a box over the part of the image you want to keep.**



## 6. **SOFT FOCUS**

### **TREATMENT: SHARPEN**

Almost all photos can use a touch of sharpening, no matter how well focused. Move the Sharpness slider to the right until lines and other details are well defined. Watch skin and other smooth

surfaces closely—if you see grain, you've gone too far. When the sharpening's done, so are you. Close the Adjust dialog, then click Done to save your changes.



### **ALL BETTER!**

A little exposure compensation, sharpening, and other iPhoto treatments can improve a photo that looked pretty decent to start with.

## **PATIENT #2**

# **SERIOUS CONDITION**

**DOCTOR:** Photoshop Elements

**DIAGNOSIS:** Whoever first put a flash smack-dab on the front of a camera ought to be deported—a head-on flash can nuke an image. Our second patient has all the typical problems of indoor, direct-flash photography. Sadly, iPhoto can't do much here. The saturation slider could replace a little of the lost color, and the tint and temperature sliders could remove some of the pink cast, but the flash is so overwhelming that you'll need a more powerful tool to restore the lost flesh tones. We're using Photoshop Elements, but you CS folks can play, too.

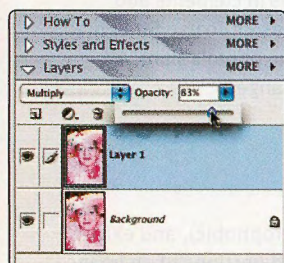
## **[TREATMENTS]**

### 1. **WASHED OUT FROM TOO MUCH FLASH**

#### **TREATMENT: CORRECT FLASH EFFECTS**

Open the photo in Elements, choose Window > Layers, and press Command-J to create a copy of the background layer. Select the new layer (creatively titled Layer 1) from the Layers palette. Click the drop-down menu above the layer and select Multiply. In Elements (and CS), Multiply means just what it did in third-grade arithmetic: The new layer converts the colors from the lower layer into numerical values and multiplies them, using some formula that only Adobe engineers fully

**Duplicating the original layer and setting it to Multiply mode darkens the whole image, helping to alleviate the too-close-flash problem.**



## **[SYMPTOMS]**

### 1. **WASHED OUT FROM TOO MUCH FLASH**

Say it with us: Pointing an unfiltered flash directly at someone is a bad idea.

### 2. **HOT SPOTS**

Pale skin reflects light far too well.

### 3. **OVEREMPHASIZED SKIN FLAWS**

Even Cindy Crawford would look rough if you stuck a flash in her face.

### 4. **WAY, WAY, WAY TOO MUCH PINK**

The costume seemed like a good idea at the time, OK?



understand. The resulting colors are darker, which helps restore the detail that was blown out by the flash.

One multiplier was enough for our sample image. If yours is still washed out, continue to create multiplied layers until



the details are filled in. If the final layer darkens your image too much, you should reduce the layer's opacity. Highlight it in the Layers palette, click the blue triangle next to the Opacity percentage at the top right of the palette, and move the slider that appears to the left. When you're finished, merge your layers by pressing Command-Shift-E.

## 2. HOT SPOTS

### TREATMENT: COOL OFF THOSE HOT SPOTS

This trick is a little trickier. From the Tools palette (Window > Tools), select the Clone Stamp (the rubber-stamp icon); this tool lets you sample one part of an image and paint it into another. Click the Brush menu on the options bar at the top of the screen (Window > Options), and select a medium-size brush with a soft edge. To the right of that, click the Mode drop-down menu, and select Darken from the list—this tells Elements to affect only pixels that are lighter than your sample. Place the brush over a section of normal skin—what you want to make the hot spot look like—and Option-

click to define the source sample. Finally, click over each hot spot until it's replaced by a normal skin tone.

To get rid of hot spots, clone some normal-looking skin over them.



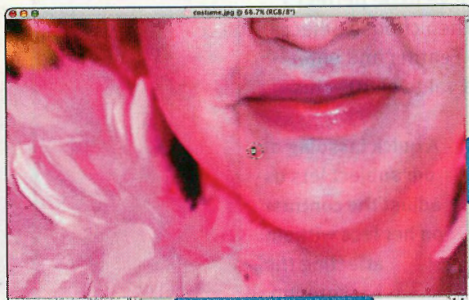
## 3. OVEREMPHASIZED SKIN FLAWS

### TREATMENT STEP I: REMOVE FACIAL FLAWS

Now we get to play plastic surgeon. Select the Healing Brush (the Band-Aid icon) from the Tools menu. Select a soft-edged brush that's about twice as large as the flaws you want to fix (for our image, we chose 120 pixels). Then use the Healing Brush in the same manner as the Clone Stamp, Option-clicking to define the source sample, then clicking over each flaw until it's replaced with healthy skin. This works for acne, large freckles, and other marks—and it's much cheaper than dermal abrasion.

iPhoto tries to offer a similar function with its Retouch tool, but it's more of a Son of Smudge Tool than a true cloner or healer. We prefer the Healing Brush because of the increased control over brush size and texture. Also, the ability to zoom in on small flaws is essential in high-resolution images; iPhoto just can't get as up close and personal.

The Healing Brush works great for fixing freckles and other blemishes while retaining the skin's natural texture.



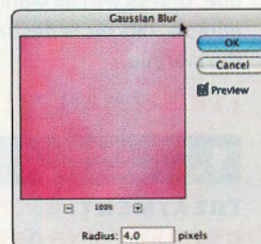
## TREATMENT STEP II:

### ADD SOME GLAMOUR GLOW

Now that we've saved our subject's skin from our flash, let's go one step further. Ever wonder how portrait photographers get that smooth glamour-shot look? Here's the trick: Open Window > Layers, then press Command-J. Select the new layer that you just created, and select Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur. Enter a number for the amount—we like to stay between 2 and 5, although we've seen others go as high as 6. Click OK.

Now, select the Eraser tool; set it to a big, soft-edged brush; and erase the blur from everything except your subject's skin—this includes eyes, lips, hair, and clothing. When you're done, merge the layers with Command-Shift-E.

A light application of Gaussian Blur gives skin that model-smooth look.

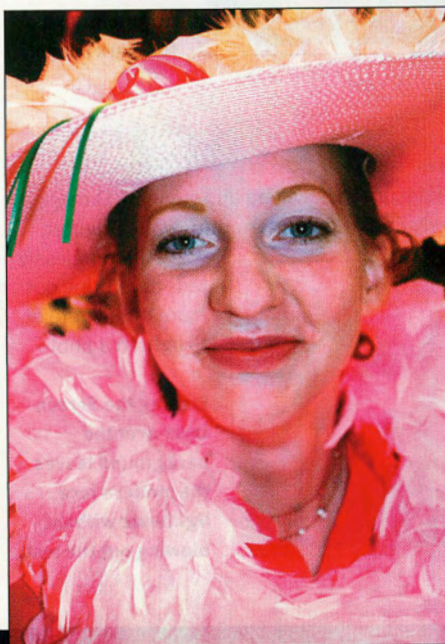
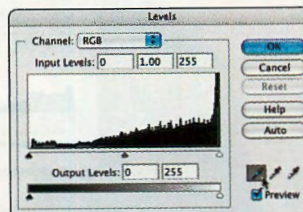


## 4. WAY, WAY, WAY TOO MUCH PINK

### TREATMENT: COLOR-CORRECT

Press Command-L or select Image > Adjustments > Levels to bring up the Levels dialog. Select the leftmost of the three eyedroppers (the one filled with black), go to your image, and click on the blackest point you can find. Then, select the middle eyedropper and click on a midtone gray area. Finally, select the rightmost eyedropper and click on a white point. Each time you do this, Elements will redistribute your color range based on these new values. Selecting the right samples takes some practice (especially in the midtones), but once you learn the trick you can color-correct in seconds. If any change produces an unwanted color shift, click Reset and try again.

Use eyedroppers to get Elements to adjust your color range automatically.



**ALL BETTER!**  
Turn down the heat and smooth out the skin, and your model will be much happier with her photo (and with you).



## PATIENT #3

### DOA

**DOCTOR:** Photoshop CS

**DIAGNOSIS:** Where to begin? This patient is barely breathing—the image is a wreck. Shooting against a bright background usually requires a flash to fill in the foreground, and we didn't use one. Unless we can work a miracle, this pic is destined for the morgue.

### [TREATMENTS]

#### 1. FOREGROUND UNDEREXPOSED

#### TREATMENT:

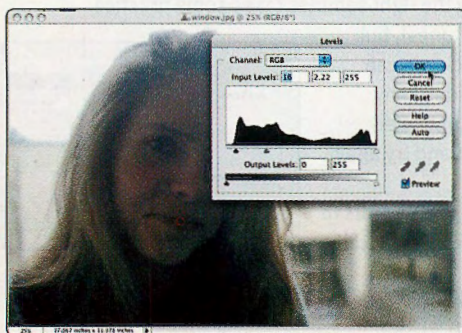
#### CORRECT EXPOSURE

We weren't bright enough to use a flash here (pun intended), but Photoshop can simulate one for us. Select Window > Layers to open the Layers palette, then press Command-J to copy the background layer as Layer 1. Select the new layer, and press Command-L or select Image > Adjustments > Levels to bring up the Levels dialog. Move the middle slider to the left until the subject in the foreground looks properly exposed. Click OK to save your changes.

Now our problem is the background. It's completely blown out. Select the Eraser tool, and—making sure you're still working on Layer 1—delete everything around your subject to

let the original background show through. Press Command-Shift-E to merge the two layers.

Moving the middle Levels slider to the left brightens up a too-dark image.



#### 2. SUBJECT FADED

#### TREATMENT: SCREEN FOR DETAIL

For most pics, that exposure trick will be all you need. Ours, however, was so poorly lit that the foreground, while brighter, was still hopelessly faded. To bring out more detail here or to lighten a photo



Erasing the Screen layer over the background leaves the model's face lightened without blowing out the rest.

#### 2. SUBJECT FADED

Generally, in portrait photography, being able to see your subject is a plus.

#### 3. LIGHTING UNEVEN

The light here is about as even as a dirt road in Arkansas.

#### 1. FOREGROUND UNDEREXPOSED

In our defense, we messed this shot up on purpose. As an example.

### [SYMPTOMS]

#### 4. NO DETAIL IN FACE

She's whoever you want her to be!

#### 5. COLOR ALMOST COMPLETELY FADED OUT

Maybe now would be a good time to learn about black-and-white photography.

that's dark all over, press Command-J and set the new layer mode to Screen in the drop-down menu—this has the opposite effect of Multiply. If the brightening effect is too much (it was for us), dial it back by reducing the layer's opacity (as we explained in step 1 for our second patient). Now you've blown out your background again, so erase the screen layer around the subject. If this step has solved your problem, go ahead and merge your layers. If not, see the next step.

#### 3. LIGHTING UNEVEN

#### TREATMENT: EVEN OUT LIGHTING

This photo is a special case: Not only is the lighting insufficient, it's also unevenly distributed. The result is that we only need the screen layer on the bottom half of our model's face. To even lighting in cases like this, select the Eraser tool, reduce its opacity to about 25 percent, and erase over the parts that are still too bright. (In our picture, we erased over the model's forehead and eyes.) When finished, merge the layers with Command-Shift-E.

#### 4. NO DETAIL IN FACE

#### TREATMENT STEP 1: ADD CONTRAST

Now we're getting somewhere, but our subject is still too gray. We need to increase the contrast on her face without touching the background. Here's how. Select the Lasso tool (rope icon), and draw an outline around the subject's body. (It doesn't have to be perfect.) Then choose Select > Feather and enter a value of 30—this

A quick lassoing of our subject lets us adjust the contrast on her face without affecting the background.





smoothes the area around the outline and prevents a harsh line from forming when we boost the contrast.

Now, select Layer > New Adjustment Layer > Brightness/Contrast and name the new layer. Move the Contrast slider up—way up, if your image looks anything like ours. If part of it starts to look harsh before the fade is gone, stop and press OK to save your changes. Merge layers when finished.

## TREATMENT STEP II: TURN DOWN THE NOISE

The result of all this tweaking is a lot of noise—splotchy pixels and grain. If you're using Elements, clean it up by selecting Filter > Noise > Reduce Noise. Click OK to try the default settings. Our photo wound up with a ton of noise, so we moved the reduction slider up quite a bit.

Now for the bad news: the Reduce Noise filter is found in Elements only. Sadly, CS offers no comparable tool out of the box. Alternatives are Filter > Noise > Despeckle and Filter > Noise > Dust & Scratches, which can remove the worst of the problem—but they lack the power and flexibility of the Elements filter. Our advice?

Get ASoft's Neat Image (see "Specialized Tools," p25).



The Reduce Noise filter in Elements takes away some of the graininess the other operations added.

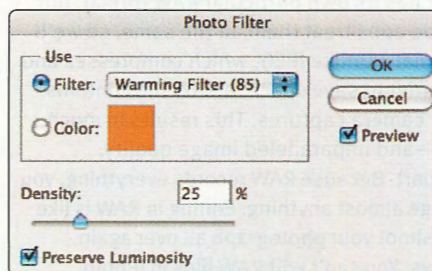
## 5. COLOR ALMOST COMPLETELY FADED OUT

### TREATMENT STEP I: TURN UP THE HEAT

A photo this poorly lit is almost certain to need some added color. For a quick fix, click Layer > New Adjustment Layer > Photo Filter, and click OK. Select one of the Warming Filters in the dialog that appears—we used number 85 because it's, well, warmer—and click OK to add a yellow-orange tint to the image.

### TREATMENT STEP II: ADD A GLOW

Remember the "Add Some Glamour Glow" treatment from the last patient, p21? We made a final pass with it here, too, to even out the last noisy areas. And that's really about all we can do. The final version isn't perfect, but it's miles better than what we started with.



The Warming Filter enhances the image with a tint, adding color where our poor lighting produced almost none.



### ALL BETTER!

Judicious lightening, added contrast, and improved color haven't made a great photo, but they've turned a totally terrible shot into something usable.

## TRIAGE TIPS

No matter what image malady you're trying to treat, here are a few basic principles to guide you:

**STICK WITH ONE EDITOR** Generally speaking, it's best to edit each picture in a single app, especially if you're using JPEGs. Each time you open, edit, and save a JPEG, you lose quality because of the way the file format compresses data. If you can do everything in iPhoto 5, great. But if an image needs major work, it's best to do it all in Photoshop Elements or CS.

**DON'T BE AFRAID TO EXPERIMENT** As Mac users well know, the best way to learn is to play—so don't be afraid to try drastic edits on your pictures. iPhoto respects the standard Undo command (as long as you haven't clicked Done), and the Adobe products can undo dozens of changes. In Elements, just keep pressing Command-Z until the mistake disappears. In CS, use Command-Shift-Z to step backward until you're out of the woods, or just look at the History Palette (Window > History).

The latter lists each action you've performed on the photo and allows you to return to any previous state just by clicking it.

If disaster strikes and you save the wrong changes, simply highlight the photo in iPhoto and choose Photos > Revert to Original. iPhoto will replace the mangled version with the version that was originally imported from your camera—which you can then double-click to start over in one of the other apps.

**GO TOO FAR, THEN BACK OFF** Newbie photo editors always want to know one thing: How do you know when it looks right? Well, one way is to make it look wrong. If you're not sure how much of a particular adjustment is enough, push it too far, and then slowly back off until it looks right. Those sliders move in two directions for a reason.

**SHARPEN LAST** Sharpening will provide the best result after you've corrected color and cropped, so save it for last, mmm-kay?



## STRONG MEDICINE IN THE RAW

If there's one thing that separates pro photographers from the rest of us, it's RAW—an image format supported by most high-end and some mid-level digital cameras. (Actually, each camera manufacturer has its own particular RAW format, but iPhoto and both Adobe apps treat them all the same, so we'll speak of it as one format.) Unlike JPEG, which compresses and loses image data in order to save space, a RAW file contains every bit of data your camera captures. This results in much larger files than JPEG—and unparalleled image quality.

Here's the exciting part. Because RAW records everything, you can go back and change almost anything. Editing in RAW is like getting the chance to shoot your photograph all over again.

Now for the bad news. You can't edit RAW files in iPhoto.

### HOPELESS CASE?

Our sample image, to be blunt, is a complete disaster. If we had shot it in any other format, this would go straight into the trash. But this isn't another format. This is RAW.

Adobe's Camera Raw plug-in (free, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)) lets either of the Adobe apps open RAW files. (Check the Adobe site to make sure your camera is supported and that you have the latest plug-in installed.) When you open a RAW image, the Camera Raw dialog appears immediately, before you even see the app's standard work area. To salvage our cruddy RAW image, we first set the **Exposure**, our favorite RAW-only tool. The image was terribly underexposed, so we moved this slider way to the right to about +3.00—the equivalent of increasing your exposure by three f-stops. What a difference! Don't confuse this Exposure tool with the one in iPhoto. Changing the exposure in RAW is like changing the settings on your camera to take a new photograph, while iPhoto's Exposure setting, nice as it is, is really only a slightly hobbled Levels slider.

Then we turned to the **White Balance**, which balances color based on lighting conditions. You can use the presets for cloudy, daylight, or flash lighting from the drop-down menu, or you can create a custom balance by moving the sliders for temperature and tint. Our image was too cool and blue, so we slid the temperature slider to the right to increase

Increasing the Exposure setting is almost like going back and taking a whole new picture.

the warmer yellow and orange tones. (Choosing contradictory settings—say, a flash white balance for an outdoor shot—is actually a great way to produce cool effects.)

Next, we turned to **Shadows**, which acts like a supercharged version of the Contrast slider by boosting dark tones while nearly ignoring highlights, and **Saturation**, which increases color

iPhoto 5 added the ability to import and archive RAW images, but it ends there—the RAW file is saved in Originals, and you see and edit a JPEG copy. Photoshop Elements, however, provides excellent editing support for this format, without the price tag of Photoshop CS.

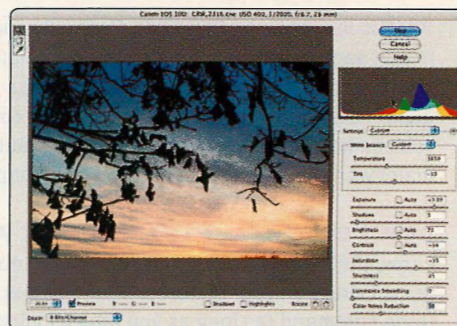
So the first step to editing a RAW file is to move it outside of iPhoto. Strangely, double-clicking a RAW image won't open it in your external editor—iPhoto sends a JPEG instead. To get the actual RAW image out of iPhoto, you must either export the file as an Original (Share > Export > Original), or—only if you've never edited the image in iPhoto—drag the thumbnail onto your favorite Adobe editor. It sounds convoluted, but it's worth it, as you'll see when we reconstruct an image that looks beyond hope.



You might as well throw this shot away—unless you have it in RAW format.

saturation throughout the spectrum. If you use these together, it almost feels as though you're painting the image rather than adjusting it. We boosted both to emphasize the black foreground leaves and the fading colors in the sky. Finally, we kicked up the **Brightness**, increased the **Color Noise Reduction**, and called it a day. Our reworked image speaks for itself.

Remember, we used Elements, but Photoshop CS offers even more options and settings. One thing about Elements: When you open the RAW file, the RAW dialog will take its best guess and automatically adjust settings for your photo. If you don't like the app's choices, just uncheck the Auto boxes and make your own.



A little Temperature control, some increased Saturation, and some Exposure work transforms the RAW image from trash worthy to album worthy.



**T**emperature, tint, histo-what? If you're an amateur photographer, the names of editing tools may read like an anatomy textbook—and it doesn't help that each application tends to coin its own terms for the same set of functions. Here's a plain-English cheat sheet for understanding the differences in tools common to both iPhoto and the Adobe family, with a few must-know definitions thrown in. Consider it your own personal Physician's Desktop Reference. Only, you know, without the medical stuff.

**CMYK** CMYK stands for Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, and Black (although why the letter K was chosen to represent black is something we've never understood—was CMYB taken?). Those are the four ink colors in most color printing. Professional printers and the businesses that rely on them (such as newspapers and magazines) need to work in CMYK, but you probably don't (see "RGB," right). Of our editing applications, only Photoshop CS supports it.

**EXPOSURE** The Exposure tool in iPhoto brightens or darkens your image while avoiding the wash-out and fading effects that adjusting Brightness alone can produce. It works in much the same way as moving the middle arrow in the Levels dialog in Photoshop Elements and CS.

**HISTOGRAM** No, it's not that medical procedure that your grandmother just had. This is the graph that appears at the bottom of iPhoto's adjustment menu and in the levels dialog in both Elements and Photoshop CS. The wavy graph represents the tonal range of your image—dark on the left, light on the right. Pros spend all day staring at these things. The rest of us just get flashbacks to high-school geometry.

## GROSS ANATOMY

**LEVELS** All three of our apps offer some version of this tool, which allows you to adjust your image by manipulating the histogram. iPhoto 5 limits you to adjusting the black and white levels of the image. Elements and CS allow you to adjust each individual color in the RGB (or CMYK) spectrum.

**RGB** RGB stands for Red, Green, and Blue, the primary colors that make up white light, and the standard color space for digital photos. RGB is the default for all consumer cameras and image-editing applications.

**STRAIGHTEN** This is iPhoto 5's version of the Image > Rotate function in Elements and Image > Rotate Canvas in CS. The difference is that iPhoto provides you with a friendly slider and real-time adjustments, while the Adobe tools make you guess a number for the exact degree of necessary rotation. Photoshop Elements and CS also offer a crop-and-straighten command (File > Automate > Crop And Straighten Photos) that tries to automatically correct slanted photos for you, but in our experience, it rarely

produces the desired results. Apple got this one so right, we get weepy just thinking about it.

**TEMPERATURE** This is iPhoto 5's attempt to stick a friendly, intuitive label on what is essentially a single slider for blue and orange. Blue equals cool. Orange equals warm. You get the picture.

**TINT** Again, iPhoto puts a friendly name on a standard color slider, this time for magenta and green. Are the standard red, green, and blue sliders in Elements really that hard to understand?

## SPECIALIZED TOOLS



*As capable as Photoshop Elements and CS are, there are ways to improve on them. The most powerful way is by adding plug-ins—specialized tools that extend the apps' abilities in certain areas. Here are three worth considering:*

**20/20 COLOR MD** If all these sliders sound like too much work, try this utility (\$49.95, [www.phototune.com](http://www.phototune.com))—it displays a series of side-by-side versions of your image; you simply click on the one you like best each time (kind of like a visit to an optometrist), and when you're done, 20/20 Color MD rolls all your choices into one improved image.

**NIK COLOR EFEX PRO** (👉👉👉👉, Jan/05, p41) This nifty plug-in package (\$299.95, [www.nikmultimedia.com](http://www.nikmultimedia.com)) gives you digital access to 75 old-style photographic filters that let you do most of the tricks and techniques we've covered here, and more. A lot more.

**NEAT IMAGE** If your photos suffer from a lot of noise—you know, that grainy, pixel-ish stuff—check out Neat Image (\$39.90, [www.neatimage.com](http://www.neatimage.com)). Neat Image offers much more power and flexibility than the Reduce Noise filter in Elements or the Despeckle filter in CS.

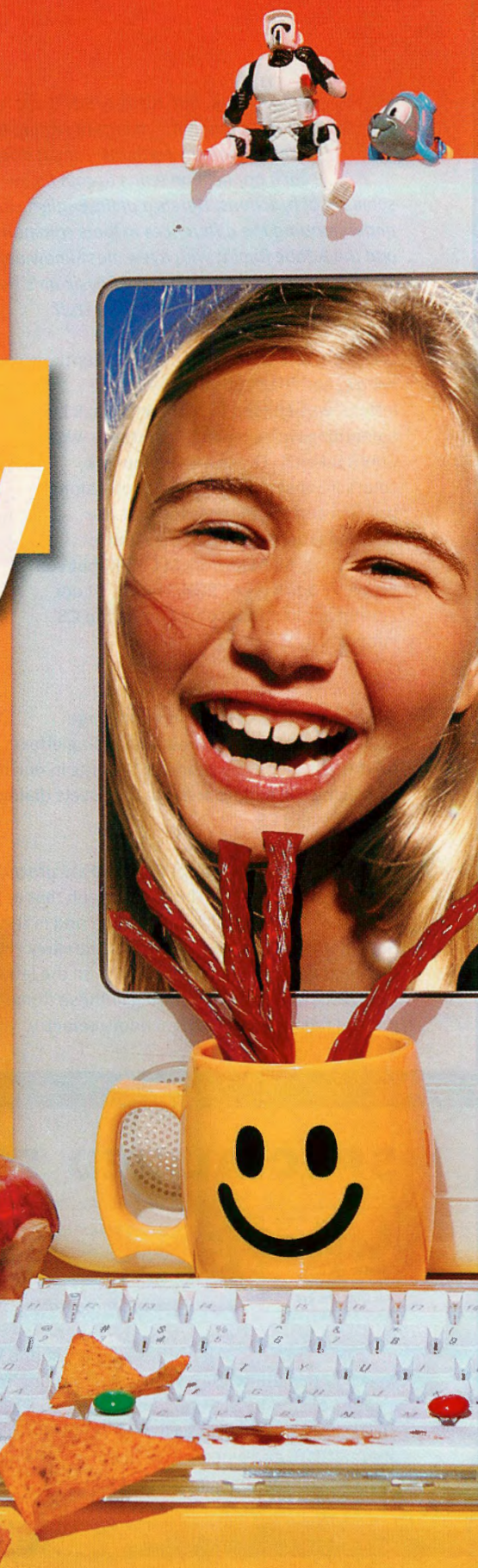


# The Kid- Friendly Mac

**A few quick steps will make  
your Mac a fun and safe  
playground for your kids.**

by Anita Dennis

Summer's just about here, bringing with it lofty visions of family barbeques and camping trips with the kids. But get real: You know they're really going to spend another summer in front of screens—both TV and Mac. So why not make the best of it and set up your Mac so that your kids can use it? With a little effort, you can fix it so that their coloring-page downloads don't litter your desktop like confetti, and make it so they can surf the Web without stumbling onto porn sites. We'll show you how to create user accounts for your children, make sure your Mac has the essential kid tools, and place your young ones firmly on the path to Mac addiction (in a good way, of course).







## Kids Are Users, Too

The first thing to do when making a kid-friendly Mac is to configure a user account and establish what belongs to you and what belongs to your child. Even if your kid has his or her own Mac, it's a good idea to set yourself up as its administrator and your child as a managed user—this kind of configuration supports many Web-filtering tools.

To set your accountless kid's status, go to **System Preferences > Accounts**, click the plus-sign button to add a new account, and fill in the relevant details. Here are some tips for this account:

- Make sure your child's password is something easy to remember, but nothing too obvious—don't use your child's name, for example. Try the name of a character from a favorite book or game. (If your kid is the only user, of course, no password is necessary.)
- Choose a picture to go with the account. Since this picture may appear in chat sessions or email, don't use a personal photo—the last thing you want is your child's picture sent over the Internet. Try a picture of the family pet or your kid's favorite movie or sports idol.
- If your child is going to turn on his or her Mac when you're not around, make sure it's not possible to log in to anyone else's account: Click **Login Options**, and deselect the **Automatically Log In As** option. Again, this is only necessary if the Mac is shared—otherwise, just set it to log in to your kid's account.

Now you're ready to set up your child's Mac environment. Make sure **No Limits** is selected in the **Limitations** pane, and close **System Preferences**. (You can establish limits later—for now, you want unrestricted access from within the account.) Log out, and log in again to your child's new account.

## Here, You Can Play with These

Now it's time to set up the account for your kid's use. First, create **OS X** and **OS 9 Applications** folders in his or her **Home** directory. (A lot of kids' apps still run in **Classic** mode, so be sure it's installed on the Mac.) After that, install all the applications you want your child to use in the proper **Applications** folders. Note that some **Classic** apps require that an administrator install them, so you may have to wait until you're back in your own account for those. Also, many installers for kids' titles don't let you specify which folders they'll be installed in, so you might have to hunt them down and move them later.

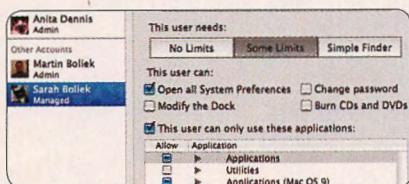
Next, if your child is a toddler or preschooler who uses a lot of educational software, you might want to launch **System Preferences > Displays** and set **Colors** to **256 Colors**. Lots of older kids' software only works with 256 colors; while some apps change the setting themselves, others don't—and you don't want to have to be your kid's **Help Desk Technician** every time he or she launches an application. Finally, let your child choose a desktop and a screen saver.

Now's a good time to figure out whether



and how you want to share photo, music, and movie libraries. You can create a Shared folder in the Users folder with your family's iPhoto and iTunes libraries, for example, and make it available to all system users. If your child prefers Raffi to Radiohead, however, or if you have the *South Park* soundtrack in your music collection, you might opt to keep a separate personal iTunes library in your child's own Music folder.

Once everything's set up and working, open System Preferences > Accounts and click the Limitations tab. Click Some Limits if you



**Keep your kid out of adults-only territory.**

lock to prevent further changes without your administrative OK. Be warned: Some unfamiliar applications in the Applications list may actually be components of software you want your child to be able to use, so err on the side of accessibility. Alternatively, you could put your own sensitive applications (such as Quicken and the Terminal) in your */user name/Applications* folder and give your child unrestricted access to the main Applications folder.

Now your kid has a personal Mac sandbox. That means it's a good time for you to get into the habit of logging off when you step away from a shared Mac for any length of time. You can enhance your child's Mac use with an assortment of kid-oriented peripherals and software (see "Pint-Sized Peripherals," right, and "Software Essentials," p29). Otherwise, get out of the way and let your kid enjoy a Summer of Mac Love.

## Pint-Size Peripherals

Just as there are kid-size meals and menus, so too are there kid-size accessories for your Mac. Set your tyke up with one of these—not only will your kid have more fun, you won't get cookie crumbs in your own keyboard.



He's ready, he's ready—for your kid's desktop.

### LittleFingers keyboards

★ **Datadesk Technologies**  
\$69.95 ☎888-327-8868,  
[www.datadesktech.com](http://www.datadesktech.com)  
LittleFingers keyboards from Datadesk Technologies are sized to fit the hands of kids from five to 11 years old, and each one features an ergonomic wrist rest and color-coded keys. The LF-2600 has a numeric keypad, and the LF-2500 sports a three-button trackball. An extra USB port lets you attach your own keyboard and use it side by side with your child.

### KidzMouse mice and more

★ **KidzMouse**  
\$19.95 to \$29.95  
☎888-503-5439,  
[www.kidzmouse.com](http://www.kidzmouse.com)  
KidzMouse offers an assortment of playful mice and keyboards that are sized for kids two through 10 years old. Colorfully painted with Disney, Nickelodeon, Sesame Workshop, and KidzMouse characters, the mice operate with a squeeze rather than a click—much easier for kids to get the hang of. KidzMouse also offers character-based headphones.

## Child-Safe Web Surfing

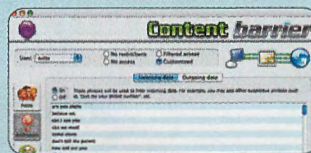
Restricting where your kids go on the Internet is one of the biggest challenges (and worries) you'll face when they sit down at the Mac—second only to having them beat you in an Unreal Tournament deathmatch. Fortunately, you can choose from a range of tools that offer varying degrees of security and control.

### BumperCar

★ **Freeverse** \$29.95 ☎212-929-3549, [www.freeverse.com](http://www.freeverse.com)  
Freeverse's BumperCar offers three levels of password-protected restraints based on white-listed and blacklisted sites (that you list) and Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA) ratings. You can also filter Web-site search engines, block profanity, prevent your child from sending out personal information, and set time limits on browsing. Multi-user accounts let you change a child's settings without having to log off yourself. The colorful start page displays five categories—Science, Math, Fun and Games, Civilization, and Language—that send your kid off to fun and interesting Web sites.

### ContentBarrier X

★ **Intego** \$69.95 ☎512-637-0700, [www.intego.com](http://www.intego.com)  
Intego's ContentBarrier X is a standalone application that lets you filter content in predefined, customizable categories, with different profiles for multiple kids. ContentBarrier X can also block predatory language in chat sessions, limit and filter downloads, restrict access to newsgroups and email, and set limits and schedules on surfing.



**ContentBarrier can log sites that your child visits and email you when something triggers its antipredator filter.**

### CutX for Safari

★ **App4Mac** \$19 ☎650-259-7664, [www.app4mac.com](http://www.app4mac.com)  
App4Mac's CutX is a Safari extension that lets you block X-rated content using a keyword list that you manage in Safari Preferences. CutX searches for words on the list before displaying any Web page and hides X-rated images if it finds any. You can also completely block specific URLs. Password protection keeps your kid from undercutting your efforts.

### Internet Explorer 5.2

★ **Microsoft** \$Free ☎888-218-5617, [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)  
When Explorer encounters a Web page that has an ICRA rating embedded as metadata in its header, it filters the content according to your settings in



## Software

## Essentials

seen a lot of consolidation in the educational-software business, and different versions or editions of these apps can show up on lots of different Web sites. At the same time, old versions (usually requiring Classic mode) are often still available, if only for download, at ridiculously low prices.

Here's just one example of this software-splunking confusion: Kid Pix. Riverdeep ([www.riverdeep.net](http://www.riverdeep.net)) offers Kid Pix Deluxe 4 for Schools with special teacher-oriented features, marketed to educators. Amazon sells Kid Pix Deluxe 4 Home Edition for \$19.99, crediting it to The Learning Company—but the Learning Company page at Riverdeep doesn't list it. Software Mackiev ([www.mackiev.com](http://www.mackiev.com)) has Kid Pix Deluxe 3X for OS X, featuring integration with iLife, for \$39.95—and in mid-March, Broderbund ([www.broderbund.com](http://www.broderbund.com)) was selling the Classic version of Kid Pix Deluxe 3 for a mere \$4.99.

All of the titles we list here are available at Amazon or at [www.smartkidssoftware.com](http://www.smartkidssoftware.com), where you can shop by grade level, age, and so on. With a little shopping around, you can easily equip a Mac for a summer of fun for less than \$100.

### EDUCATIONAL

**Math Blaster series** Available in various levels for ages four to 12, Math Blaster uses arcade-style fun and space/alien themes to teach math skills.

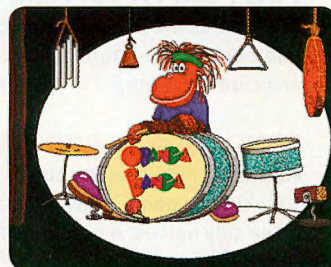
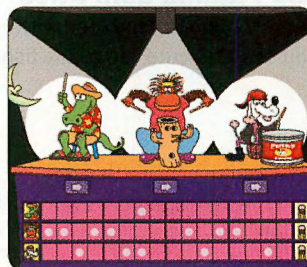
**The Oregon Trail series** Who would have thought trying to get a wagon train across the plains would be so much fun? You

get to shoot bison and die of snakebite while learning to manage your money and supplies.

**Reader Rabbit series** You may get sick of this bunny—we did—but he's got enough cutesy chops to engage and teach children from two years old through middle school.

**Storybook Weaver Deluxe** Story starters prompt creative writing and language-learning opportunities—in both English and Spanish—for kindergartners through fifth-graders.

**Thinkin' Things series** Puzzles and games present fun challenges to kids of various ages. Highly recommended.



**Thinkin' Things challenges your kids to play along with an animal band.**

**Zoombinis series** Mixing adventure with puzzle solving, these titles will engage kids of ages eight and up.

### PURE FUN

**Backyard Sports series** Pick your own teams for soccer, baseball, football, and more—includes kiddie versions of grown-up sports stars.

the Preferences > Ratings panel. You can filter according to violence, nudity, sex, and language, and choose your degree of tolerance for each category. You can also specify whether or not users can see unrated sites.

### KidsBrowser 3

★App4Mac \$29 ☎650-259-7664, [www.app4mac.com](http://www.app4mac.com)

KidsBrowser 3 features the same password-protected filtering as CutX, but it also operates in full-screen mode, which prevents your child from easily leaving the app and messing with your files. You can also disable downloads and keep a log to see where your child has visited. Your kid will enjoy KidsBrowser for its colorful and goofy graphics.



**KidsBrowser gives your child a bright, colorful way to surf the Web. It comes with built-in kid-friendly bookmarks.**

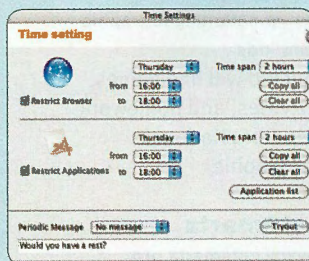
### Kids GoGoGo

★Maki Enterprise \$30 (OS X), \$40 (OS X and Classic)  
☎81-883-72-5452,

[www.makienterprise.com](http://www.makienterprise.com)

Kids GoGoGo from Maki Enterprise adds parental controls and surveillance capabilities to Safari, Internet Explorer, iCab, Opera, Netscape, and Mozilla. It can

block sites with sexual and violent content, limit children's access time, and filter search results. It supports multiple users, so you can establish different controls for different kids. It also tracks browsing history and can warn you by email when your child visits a questionable site.



**With Kids GoGoGo, not only can you filter your kids' browsing, you can set limits on the amount of time they spend doing it.**

### Norton Internet Security 3.0

★Symantec \$99.95

☎800-441-7234,

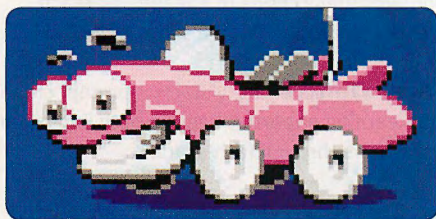
[www.symantec.com](http://www.symantec.com)

Norton Internet Security was originally designed to protect your Mac from viruses and hackers, but now it offers privacy and parental controls, as well. Norton Privacy Control lets you prevent your kids from sharing personal information on the Internet through iChat, ICQ, MSN Messenger, Yahoo Instant Messenger, and AOL Instant Messenger. You can also block access to inappropriate Web sites based on your own list or one from Symantec. It works with OS X-based browsers, including Internet Explorer and Safari.





**Bubble Trouble X** Swim around and pop bubbles while avoiding the sharks and starfish that are chasing you. You'll have to get this one directly from Ambrosia Software (\$15, on the Disc, or download from [www.ambrosiasw.com](http://www.ambrosiasw.com)).



**Pixelated Putt-Putt** rescues baby animals, goes to the moon, and more.

## Putt-Putt, Freddi Fish, and Pajama Sam titles

These titles are like animated children's books combined with role-playing adventure games. You can be a cute car, a cute fish, or a cute kid. Cute.

## EDUCATIONAL AND FUN

**Kid Pix** Kid Pix is the app to get if you're only getting one. Your kid can paint, draw, animate, type, use stamps—even make silly noises. A perennial favorite.

# Sites That Your Kid (and you) Will Love

Once you've got the filtering software figured out, bookmark these pages for your child or add them to your database of trusted sites.



Anita Dennis is a freelance writer in San Francisco. Her 7-year-old is constantly bugging her to let her log in to her iMac and surf the Web.

## American Library Association's Great Web Sites for Kids

©[www.ala.org/greatsites](http://www.ala.org/greatsites)

An awesome—if somewhat staid—portal with links organized by topics such as Animals, the Arts, Literature and Languages, Reference Desk, and Social Sciences.

## Games-Mac.com

©[www.games-mac.com](http://www.games-mac.com)

Download and try out more than a dozen games, including puzzle, logic, action, arcade, board, and card games.

## National Geographic Kids

©[www.nationalgeographic.com/kids](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids)

Your kid will find games, activities, and homework help from National Geographic.

## NetSmartz

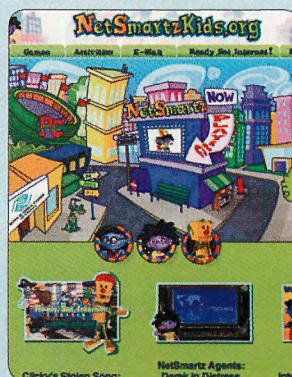
©[www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org)

Cosponsored by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Boys and Girls Clubs of

# Online-Safety Rules

Be sure to teach your child important online-safety rules, then clip this list and tape it to your kid's display.

- ★ Don't share personal information like your name, address, or phone number.
- ★ Never email someone your photo.
- ★ Don't open email attachments from strangers.
- ★ Tell your parents right away if you come across anything that makes you uncomfortable.
- ★ Never agree to get together with anyone you meet online without checking with your parents. If your parents agree, bring them to the meeting, which should be held in a public place.
- ★ Do not reply to emails or chat message that are mean or make you feel bad. If you receive a message like this, tell your parents.



The NetSmartz site offers games, Web mail, and—most importantly—ways for your kid to learn how to use the Internet as safely as possible.

America, NetSmartz teaches your child (and you) about online safety.

## Smithsonian Education

©[www.smithsonianeducation.org/students](http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/students)

Learn about everything from Viking voyages to the life of Ernest Hemingway. Content topics include Everything Art, Science and Nature, History and Culture, and People and Places.

## Yahooligans: The Web Guide for Kids

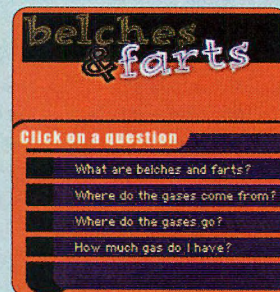
©<http://yahooligans.com>

This popular kids' portal provides links to games, reference sites, cultural and entertainment content, and much more.

## The Yuckiest Site on the Internet

©[www.yucky.com](http://www.yucky.com)

Brought to your kid by the folks at Discovery Communications, you'll find games, pictures, and quirky facts about all things creepy and slimy. It's a surefire kid pleaser, but it's not fully Safari friendly; use Internet Explorer instead.



**Belches and farts—what's not to love on Yucky.com?**



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# BURNING DESIRES

By Fredric Paul

**S**ure, they all *look* alike. They're all the same size (with some mini exceptions), and they all have similar shiny surfaces. But there are several species of recordable CDs and DVDs, and they're not interchangeable—the disc you use to back up important data or record music on your Mac may not work in other computers, CD players, or DVD players. In general, CDs are more widely compatible than DVDs, and write-once (R) discs work in more drives than rewritable (RW) discs. And although compatibility is constantly improving, you'll want to choose a drive that plays the widest variety of formats.

Some brands of disc media have better reputations than others (see DigitalFAQ's Blank Media and Quality FAQ at [www.digitalfaq.com/media/dvdmedia.htm](http://www.digitalfaq.com/media/dvdmedia.htm)). If you're just burning a disc to save wear and tear on the original, or you just need something temporary and disposable, buy the cheapest you can find. But for that wedding video, spending the extra cash on a well-known brand or archival disc (see "Keep 'Em Safe," p33) can make a difference.

## CD-R

Recordable only once, CD-R is the cheapest, most widely compatible form of recordable optical media.

**BURN IN:** CD-R, CD-RW, and DVD burners

**PLAY IN:** CD-ROM, CD-R, CD-RW, and DVD drives; many standalone CD and DVD players

**PRICE TAG:** \$9.99 for 50 Memorex CD-R discs\*

## CD-RW

These discs can be rewritten about 1,000 times and are useful if you want to create an updatable backup. Unfortunately, CD-RWs are less reflective than CD-Rs, so they're not as reliably readable in some drives.

**BURN IN:** CD-R, CD-RW, and DVD burners

**PLAY IN:** most CD-ROM, CD-R, CD-RW, and DVD drives; many standalone CD and DVD players

**PRICE TAG:** \$29.76 for 25 Hewlett-Packard CD-RW discs (\$59.52 for 50)

## DVD-R

The original consumer-oriented write-once format for recording movies or data. Endorsed by the DVD

Forum (the consortium of companies that owns the DVD logo), it's pronounced

"DVD dash R"—they don't like it if you say "minus." DVD-R is slightly more widely compatible than the similar DVD+R format. Copy-protection issues split the format in 2000; the original DVD-R became DVD-R for Authoring, while a variation with copy protection became DVD-R for General. Both drive types can read (but not write) discs of the other type.

**BURN IN:** DVD-R and DVD±R drives

**PLAY IN:** DVD-R and DVD±R drives; most DVD+R and DVD-ROM drives; most standalone DVD players

**PRICE TAG:** \$34.68 for 50 Memorex DVD-R discs

## Double (or Dual) Your Fun

As if DVD+R versus DVD-R weren't bad enough, you'll soon be able to choose between dual-layer and double-layer drives—and we're not just arguing semantics. Double-layer DVD+R DL discs and recorders are already available; the discs use two layers of dye on one side to store about 8.5GB. Verbatim announced in January that it was shipping engineering samples of dual-layer DVD-R DL discs to drive manufacturers, so the company may have a product on the market by the time you read this. A simple firmware update might be able to enable DVD+R DL drives to write to DVD-R DL discs as well. Two-layer RW technology has been a tougher nut to crack. But in April, JVC announced they plan to submit a dual-layer DVD-RW disc format (no actual product yet) to the DVD Forum for approval.

\*All prices from Amazon.com in mid-March 2005.





## DVD+R

Another write-once format, DVD+R (pronounced "DVD plus R") is similar in performance and features to DVD-R, but DVD+R is slightly less compatible with the universe of DVD-ROM drives and standalone DVD players. The DVD+RW Alliance, a rival of the original DVD Forum, supports this format.

**BURN IN:** DVD+R and DVD±R drives

**PLAY IN:** DVD+R, DVD±R, and most DVD-R drives; most DVD-ROM drives; most standalone DVD players

**PRICE TAG:** \$44.99 for 50 Memorex DVD+R discs



## DVD-RW

A DVD-RW disc (the rewritable version of DVD-R) can be rewritten up to 1,000 times. The rewritable DVD-RW is not as widely compatible as the write-once DVD-R. DVD-RW also costs more.

**BURN IN:** DVD-R and DVD±R drives

**PLAY IN:** DVD-R, DVD±R, and most DVD+R drives; most DVD-ROM drives; most standalone DVD players

**PRICE TAG:** \$4.74 for five Velocity DVD-RW discs (\$47.40 for 50)



## DVD+RW

You probably already guessed that this rewritable format, supported by the DVD+RW Alliance, competes with DVD-RW. The features and performance are nearly identical to DVD-RW, but DVD+RW is slightly less compatible with DVD-ROM and standalone DVD players than DVD+R or DVD-RW.

**BURN IN:** DVD+R and DVD±R drives

**PLAY IN:** DVD+R, DVD±R, and most DVD-R drives; most DVD-ROM drives; most standalone DVD players

**PRICE TAG:** \$2.99 for one Sony DVD+RW disc (\$149.50 for 50)



## DVD-RAM

DVD-RAM discs or cartridges can be rewritten up to 100,000 times. But cost and limited compatibility means they're best used like removable hard drives—very slow ones.

**BURN IN:** DVD-RAM drive

**PLAY IN:** DVD-RAM drive; a few standalone DVD drives

**PRICE TAG:** \$12.95 for one Panasonic DVD-RAM disc (\$647.50 for 50)

## Keep 'Em Safe

*Here's how to ensure that your CDs and DVDs last a long time:*

**STORAGE** Always store your discs in their cases to isolate them from dust and other contaminants. Stand them up vertically like books on a shelf to prevent bowing. Hold the discs by their outer edges and avoid bending them when you're removing them from their cases.

**TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY** Keep your discs in a cool, dry environment at an even temperature between 39°F and 68°F, with a relative humidity in the range of 20 to 50 percent.

**LIGHT AND SUNLIGHT** Prolonged sunlight or other sources of UV light will accelerate the breakdown of the dye layer of a recordable (R) disc. A rewritable (RW) disc is not at risk from UV light, but heat can affect the recording surface.

**MOISTURE** Prolonged exposure to moisture may make a disc unreadable. Allowing it to dry out should return it to usability, but any contaminants in the moisture may be left behind in the disc.

**SCRATCHES** The data layer is closest to the label side of the disc, so deep scratches on the label that penetrate the dye or metal will destroy data. On both the label and data sides, scratches going around the disc are worse than those that go across it from center to edge.

**CLEANING** Solvents that contain acetone or benzene will damage a disc beyond repair. Milder solvents containing isopropyl alcohol or methanol evaporate quickly and won't damage the disc's protective polycarbonate layer. For best results, gently blow away dust, wipe from the center of the disc out with a soft cotton cloth or chamois, and don't use anything abrasive, including paper products.

**GOLD STANDARD** The longest-lasting recordable CDs use a layer of true gold, which is highly reflective and does not corrode. Manufacturers pair the gold with a phthalocyanine dye, which gives the data layer its characteristic light yellowish-green tint.

—Adam Young



## Showing ID

*Here's some advice on how to label your discs:*

**MARKERS** You can write directly onto the top of the disc, but use only water-based, felt-tip markers. If you want to be super safe, only write on the clear inner hub of the disc.

**ADHESIVE LABELS** You can write on adhesive labels or run them through your printer. Labels, however, can absorb moisture and are affected by heat and cold even more than the disc itself. Use only labels manufactured for use on CDs or DVDs, and use an applicator tool to center the label and maintain the disc's balance.

**PRINTABLE DISCS** Most leading disc vendors make printable discs that work with disc printers from companies such as Primera ([www.primera.com](http://www.primera.com)) and Microboards ([www.microboards.com](http://www.microboards.com)), and some photo printers from Epson ([www.epson.com](http://www.epson.com)). Unfortunately, these discs are more than twice as expensive as regular discs.

**LIGHTSCRIBE** LightScribe CD and DVD drives can burn your label into an extra dye layer on the non-data side of a LightScribe disc—the disc itself becomes the label. Hewlett-Packard developed the technology and licensed it to several manufacturers of drives and discs—learn more at [www.lightscribe.com](http://www.lightscribe.com).



June means summer vacations, trips to the beach,  
and the annual

# MacAddict READER SURVEY!



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your Mac experience even better and  
we'll reward 3 of you with a ....



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**<http://www.macaddict.com/survey>**  
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Surveys must be completed by May 20, 2005.

One entry or response per person. Must be 13 years of age to respond. Your email address will not be sold or used by Future Network USA except for contacting you should you win the iPod without your consent. Winners are responsible for income taxes based on the value of the prize received. This contest is limited to residents of the United States. No purchase necessary, void in Arizona, Maryland, Vermont, Puerto Rico, and where prohibited by law.





You'll be  
blown away.



You'll be  
impressed.



You'll be  
satisfied.



You'll be  
disappointed.



You'll be  
pissed off.

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Spring may have sprung, but we're too busy to go out and enjoy the sunshine—instead, we're composing GarageBand tunes with MacMice's GarageKey keyboard (pictured), conquering hell in Aspyr's Doom 3, and writing the next summer blockbuster in Final Draft 7. At least the Sonos Digital Music System keeps us in aural bliss while we're indoors. But once the sun goes down, we'll enjoy a mai tai by the light of TikiMac's Big Tiki Drive while looking forward to next month's reviews, including Apple's Final Cut Express HD video-editing software, Roland's FR-7 V-Accordion (yes, it's a digital accordion), Aspyr's Command & Conquer Generals: Zero Hour real-time strategy game, and more.


- 43 321 LCD Monitor *LCD monitor*
- 37 Acrobat 7.0 Pro *PDF-production software*
- 52 Big Tiki Drive *USB flash drive*
- 48 Doom 3 *first-person shooter*
- 52 Dora the Explorer Animal Adventures *kids' game*
- 46 DRX-710UL-T *DVD burner*
- 46 Final Draft 7 *movie-script software*
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 Compatible with  
Mac OS X or later.

 Compatible with  
Mac OS 9 or earlier.



We'd spend our  
own hard-earned  
money on this  
product.





There'll be music everywhere!

# Sonos Digital Music System

## EASY AND ELEGANT MUSIC STREAMER

What if Apple and Bang & Olufsen had a wild, torrid affair? Their love child would no doubt resemble the Sonos Digital Music System, which just happens to be the most impressive music device to hit the shelves since the iPod. The Sonos Digital Music System elegantly distributes music throughout your home or business without some convoluted server you can't begin to understand how to configure.

Sonos has two parts. The first is the ZonePlayer, an elegant 50-watt amplifier with line-in and line-out ports, subwoofer support, and a four-port Ethernet hub. If you have multiple ZonePlayers, they can communicate with one another via Ethernet, or they can use Sonosnet, Sonos's proprietary wireless networking technology. The second part is the Controller, a 12-button wireless remote with a brilliant 3.5-inch backlit color screen. You provide the speakers.

The setup is unbelievably simple. Plug your first ZonePlayer into an Ethernet cable connected to your network. Connect a pair of speakers. Run the setup CD on your Mac, or use the Controller to configure everything manually. Press the Volume and Mute

buttons on the Sonos ZonePlayer at the same time, which puts it into Discovery mode so your Controller and Mac can find it. Show the Sonos where your music is stored by navigating on the Controller to your Mac's music folder. You're done.

Sonos doesn't actually store music; it locates music stored on multiple devices that are on your network. Our setup included Buffalo Technology's HD-H120LAN LinkStation (\$279, [www.buffalotech.com](http://www.buffalotech.com)), a Network Accessible Storage (NAS) drive that has an Ethernet connection to provide access to files. We simply plugged the drive into an Ethernet jack, and the music stored on it was available to Sonos and all the Macs on our network.

**Sonos everywhere.** We set up Sonos in four rooms of a house: the living room, kitchen, a bedroom, and an upstairs den. Setup took less than 30 minutes, and we used Sonosnet—no wires, no hassle. In addition to playing different songs in each room, we were able to play the same song at the same time in each location, perfectly synced and at different volumes.

The Controller is a beautifully

designed wireless remote with lighted buttons and a gorgeous backlit display—it even has a motion detector built in, so it activates itself when you pick it up. Currently, Sonos can track up to 30,000 songs, which might be limiting to some collections, but since Sonos can get software updates over the Internet, the manufacturer should easily be able to address this issue in the future.

Sonos has a lot going for it, but like many first-generation devices, it still has a few problems. The most annoying is that you can't play songs purchased from the iTunes Music Store because of Apple's digital rights management (DRM) scheme. While the Controller is well-designed hardware, the software's user interface is not quite as elegant as that of Apple's iPod. Large music collections are cumbersome to browse—there's no way to jump easily from Alphaville to ZZ Top without scrolling through hundreds, if not thousands, of artists. And while there is a Mac configuration app, there currently is no Mac app for remotely controlling Sonos from your Mac.

**The bottom line.** For a single room, there are more-affordable and less-capable ways to free your music from your Mac, such as Apple's AirPort Express (Oct/04, p48). But if you want a player for your entire home or business, Sonos works wonderfully.

—Alan Graham



**COMPANY:** Sonos

**CONTACT:** 800-680-2345, [www.sonos.com](http://www.sonos.com)

**PRICE:** \$1,199 for Introductory Bundle (includes two ZonePlayers and a Controller); \$399 for Controller; \$499 for ZonePlayer

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Mac OS 10.2 or later,  
Ethernet connection

**GOOD NEWS:** Gorgeous design.

Unbelievably simple setup.

**BAD NEWS:** No support for Apple's DRM.

Doesn't work with iTunes. Expensive.

MacAddict RATED



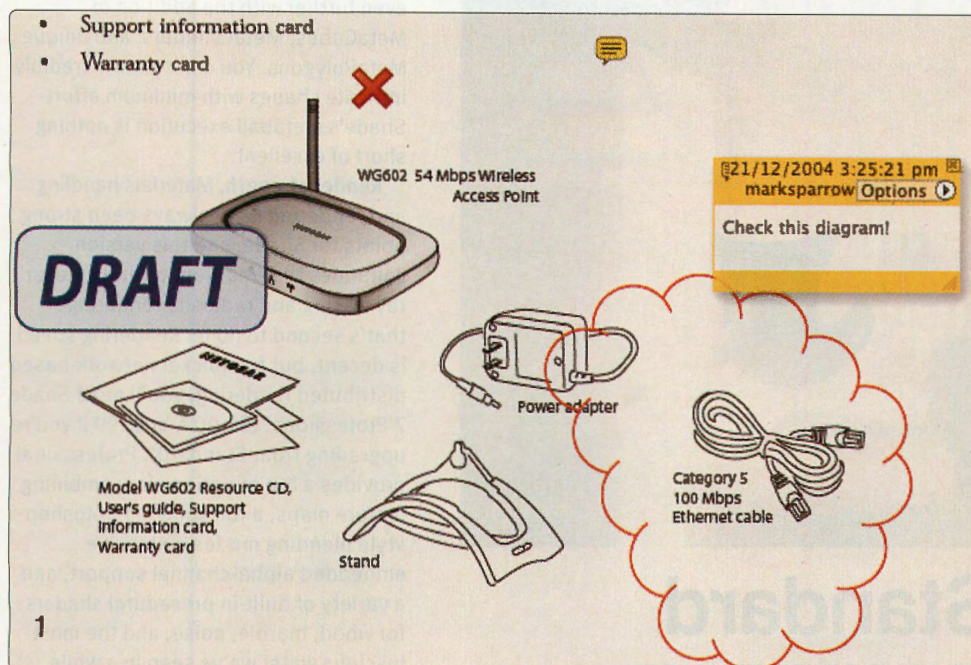
GREAT

IMAGE COURTESY OF SONOS



# Acrobat 7.0 Professional

ULTIMATE PDF-PRODUCTION SOFTWARE



Now you can add comments to your PDFs—a great tool for production houses.

For many Mac owners, there's no need to buy Adobe's Acrobat—you can make straightforward Portable Document Format (PDF) files through OS X's Print dialog. However, Acrobat 7.0 Professional treats PDFs as editable documents that can be annotated, reviewed, and output in a range of resolutions.

At first glance, Acrobat 7.0 doesn't appear much different from its predecessor. It still lacks an intuitive interface, and it's far too easy to lose track of the Advanced Editing toolbar. But Adobe has greatly improved document launch speed and general performance—unlike Acrobat 6, you won't yawn each time you open a document.

For document editing and revision, Acrobat has an enhanced set of mark-up tools that let you edit documents through a Web browser. You can set up privileges and access for individual users and then invite colleagues to join

in the review process. Acrobat will even email instructions to your colleagues on how to collaborate in the process. There are also new tools for commenting on content and marking up corrections; a Callout tool lets you add Post It-style comments anywhere on a page. Oddly,

**TIP**

## MAKE A PDF SANS ACROBAT

PDFs can be created from any app that supports printing. How's how:

1. Select File > Print, or press Command-P on your keyboard.
2. Click the Save As PDF button at the bottom of the Print dialog.
3. Navigate to where you want to save your file, name your file, then click Save.

though, it's difficult to do something as simple as add a signature to a PDF—not a digital signature, just a plain scribble using a pen tool or a graphic file.

**Flexible Acrobat.** Acrobat's new Organizer tool lists all your PDFs in a browser window. It's certainly a nice

and easy way to keep track of the documents you've read or opened. It can even list documents that you've viewed using Acrobat's new Safari plug-in—yes, you can now download and view PDFs from the Web within Safari. It's a long-overdue feature that's nicely implemented.

Acrobat 7.0 introduces a new PDF format that allows you to embed other file types within a PDF. For example, you can include Excel spreadsheets in a document. And speaking of Microsoft Office integration, when you launch Office after you install Acrobat, you'll notice a new Acrobat toolbar with two new buttons: a Make PDF button that lets you create PDFs directly from any Office application, and an Email PDF

button that lets you email any document as a PDF from within Office. If you decide to email from within Acrobat, you can wrap a PDF in what Adobe calls an eEnvelope, which encrypts the document so you can restrict access. It's a great way to reduce the potential for fraud, and it protects your document from being signed with a false digital signature.

There are other new improvements, as well. You can now create electronic forms that can be filled in by anyone who has the free Acrobat Reader 7. A new Print Production toolbar lets you mark up artwork with comments—the Dimensioning tool, for example, measures the distance between two points in your PDF.

**The bottom line.** Acrobat 7.0 is a substantial upgrade for PDF power users and press environments. Everyone else should just read "Make a PDF sans Acrobat" (left) to learn how to make uneditable PDFs from within other apps. —Mark Sparrow



**COMPANY:** Adobe  
**CONTACT:** 800-833-6687,  
 www.adobe.com  
**PRICE:** \$449

**REQUIREMENTS:** G3, Mac OS  
 10.2.8 or later, 128MB RAM, 495MB  
 disk space, 1,024-by-768-pixel  
 resolution

**GOOD NEWS:** Better speed. Improved review tools. Able to  
 embed documents. New prepress tools.  
**BAD NEWS:** Confusing menus. Still expensive.

**MacAddict RATED**  
 GREAT





Here's an example of Shade 7's rendering, which is some of the cleanest we've ever seen.

Shade 7 takes the metaball concept even further with the addition of MetaCubes, MetaCylinders, and unique MetaPolygons. You can create incredibly intricate shapes with minimum effort—Shade's metaball execution is nothing short of excellent.

**Render strength.** Materials handling and rendering have always been strong points for Shade, and this version continues the tradition, offering stellar ray tracing and radiosity rendering that's second to none. Rendering speed is decent, but for quicker network-based distributed rendering, you'll need Shade 7 Professional (\$1,009, or \$799 if you're upgrading from Standard). Professional provides a ton of options for combining texture maps, a full suite of Photoshop-style blending modes, extensive embedded alpha-channel support, and a variety of built-in procedural shaders for wood, marble, noise, and the most luscious water we've seen in a while.

Animation is Shade's one relatively weak point. While you can create interpolations between positions of an object in space and move the active camera along a motion path, that's about all you can do. Even though there are jointing tools for connecting objects with

physical constraints (such as hinges), there aren't enough options for chaining inverse kinematics—Shade simply won't make the grade for serious animators.

#### The bottom line.

While it's not the best choice for instant 3D gratification, Shade 7 Standard offers a strong mix

of powerful modeling tools and killer rendering quality that will appeal to artists who can live without advanced animation wonders. Shade 7 Standard is a great bargain—in any dimension.

—David Biedny

# Shade 7 Standard

## POWERFUL YET AFFORDABLE 3D SOFTWARE

**S**hade is a full-featured 3D-modeling, rendering, and animation app that's been around almost 20 years. Shade 7, the current incarnation of this truly venerable (and highly potent) 3D app, is worth a close look from anyone who wants to dive into advanced 3D-model making without breaking the bank.

At first glance, Shade's dense toolkit and interface are intimidating. Shade is not as approachable as younger programs such as Eovia's Carrara 4 (MacAddict May/05, p40), but under its complex interface, you'll find a level of raw power and flexibility that is uncommon in an app at this low, low price. Shade has a wide array of both spline- and polygon-based tools, including polygon meshes with individually editable vertices and deformation lattices for manipulating and distorting shapes in intensely complex ways. Starting with either basic line shapes or imported EPS graphics (such as logos), it's easy to sweep and extrude those shapes into 3D renditions; it's just as easy to tweak those shapes with

Shade's full complement of advanced editing tools.

**Tools.** Shade's core modeling tools center on polygonal meshes and are supported by potent Boolean modeling and spline-based curve primitives.

Booleans make it a snap to join, intersect, and subtract one shape from another, which quickly results in clean, intricate objects. While more than a few 3D-modeling apps offer Booleans, Shade's implementation provides well-defined results with few undesirable artifacts—especially when performing more than a couple successive Boolean passes on an object.

In the 3D-software realm, *metaballs* are virtual clumps of magnetic clay used to make organic shapes.



**Shade 7's complex-looking interface is surprisingly efficient, delivering an insane amount of capability in minimal screen real estate.**



**COMPANY:** Curious Labs  
**CONTACT:** 831-462-8901,  
www.curiouslabs.com  
**PRICE:** \$209

**REQUIREMENTS:** G3, Mac OS  
10.2 or later, 256MB RAM, 250MB  
disk space

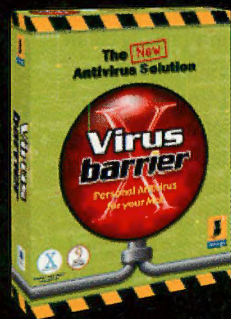
**GOOD NEWS:** Extensive modeling tools and techniques. Excellent surface-map capabilities. Gorgeous render quality.  
**BAD NEWS:** Relatively weak animation options. Somewhat intimidating (though efficient) interface.

**MacAddict RATED**  
GREAT



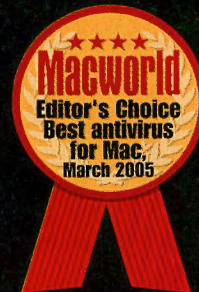
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**Intego ChatBarrier X3**  
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# Stylus 500

## VIEWFINDERLESS POINT-AND-SHOOT CAMERA

The most noticeable feature of Olympus's Stylus 500 is actually the lack of one—it doesn't have a viewfinder. What this 5-megapixel camera does have, however, is long battery life and the ability to capture good-quality photos.

We took the Stylus 500 into several lighting situations, from an evening indoors to an afternoon in a park on a cloudless day. In a low-lit room with only three incandescent lights, we could easily determine what would be in the picture by looking at the 2.5-inch LCD, but images on the LCD were nearly impossible to see when we took the camera out into the sun—that's when a viewfinder would have come in handy.

The Stylus 500 is easy to operate and fits comfortably in one hand; all the necessary operating controls are quickly available to your right-hand thumb and index finger. The Mode dial lets you switch between image capture, image playback, movie capture, and album selection. The arrow pad provides access to four major functions—Flash, Self-Timer, Macro, and Scene—without

having to scroll through numerous menu selections. When set to Scene, you can use the camera in one of 20 shooting modes, including Program (the default mode in which the camera selects the shutter speed and lens aperture), Landscape, Portrait, and more—even Cuisine and Documents modes.

**xD memory.** The Stylus 500 stores pictures on a tiny xD-Picture card, our least-favorite form factor for flash-memory cards. The camera comes with a puny 32MB card, but we used a 256MB xD card for our tests, which let us store 71 images at the highest-quality JPEG setting and 210 images on the second-highest quality level. Reformatting the 256MB card took over 30 seconds—very annoying. The cover for the storage card

**No viewfinder? No problem—until the sun shines brightly.**

and battery proved even more annoying; it flew open at the tiniest bit of pressure from a slightly misplaced finger. Until we noticed the "Card-Cover Open" warning on the LCD, we weren't able to use the Stylus 500.

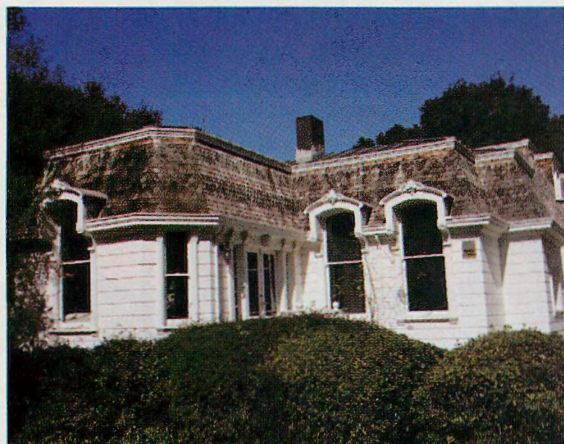
We were pleasantly surprised at how many pictures we could take with a fully charged battery—over 1,000 without using the flash. Using the internal flash will definitely lower your image count.

The Stylus 500's image quality is more than passable. We saw little in our photos that we couldn't easily clean up in our favorite image-manipulation software. In addition to shooting standard snapshotty pictures, we also took several pictures with a GretagMacbeth ColorChecker Chart (\$74, [www.gretagmacbeth.com](http://www.gretagmacbeth.com)), a test pattern of 24 colored squares designed to help determine a camera's true color balance. The Stylus 500's pictures showed good color fidelity in the skin tones as well as the additive (RGB) and subtractive (CMYK) color primaries. Pretty darn nice for a \$399 camera.

**The bottom line.** The Stylus 500 impressed us—but you'll have to learn to trust your pointing-and-shooting skills when you can't see its LCD on a bright, sunny day.—Rick Oldano



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MADEO



The image above was shot in Program mode in the early afternoon in bright sunlight. The camera decided that 1/80 of a second at f/9.0 was the correct exposure, and it was right—the image has good color saturation and fidelity.



We shot the image above using Macro mode in the early afternoon in bright sunlight. The camera decided 1/125 of a second at f/5.2 was correct, which limited depth of field.



**COMPANY:** Olympus  
**CONTACT:** 888-553-444,  
[www.olympusamerica.com](http://www.olympusamerica.com)  
**PRICE:** \$399

**REQUIREMENTS:** USB-equipped  
Mac, Mac OS 10.1 or later

**GOOD NEWS:** Long-lasting battery. Comfortable one-hand use.

**BAD NEWS:** No viewfinder. Insecure battery and storage-card latch.

**MacAddict RATED**  
●●●●●  
**SOLID**





# FW-1082

## MULTIFACETED FIREWIRE AUDIO/MIDI INTERFACE

Tascam's FW-1082 is a FireWire audio/MIDI interface and control surface that gives you access to many audio controls at once—mixer faders, transport controls, pan pots, and so on. It works well if you use it straight out of the box with its bundled Cubase LE software; if you try to use a different digital audio workstation (DAW) app, however, you're going to need some help.

The FW-1082 supports standard sample rates from 44.1KHz to 96KHz, and it comes with four microphone inputs with phantom power, four line inputs, and stereo digital input and output via S/PDIF on RCA connectors. Transport controls, 60mm touch-sensitive faders, the

ever-fun jog/shuttle wheel, and a good assortment of control buttons and lights ride on its sleek chassis.

**Software control.** Tascam's FW-1082 Manager utility lets you set parameters for MIDI and Core Audio and choose the control-surface protocol you want to use. Configuring the FW-1082 with Cubase LE was a snap; getting the FW-1082 to work with Apple's Logic was trickier. When we tried using the FW-1082 with Logic and the industry-standard Mackie Control protocol, Logic consistently crashed. We did, however, successfully use the Human User Interface protocol.

The included Soft LCD app shows selected track-name and parameter

**Be the master  
of your audio domain.**

values onscreen—very helpful. The FW-1082's hardware controls work well and its audio quality is good enough for a studio. The FW-1082 touts compatibility with Digidesign's Pro Tools, but this applies only to Digidesign's high-end Pro Tools TDM systems, not the more wallet-friendly Pro Tools LE systems.

**The bottom line.** For under a grand, the FW-1082 has a ton of features and good software. It's a compelling all-in-one desktop-recording package.

—Kerry Rose



**COMPANY:** Tascam

**CONTACT:** 323-726-0303,

[www.tascam.com](http://www.tascam.com)

**PRICE:** \$999

**REQUIREMENTS:** FireWire

400-equipped Mac, Mac OS 10.2.8  
or later

**GOOD NEWS:** Lot of features for a fair price. Looks cool.

Sounds good.

**BAD NEWS:** Needs more info about compatible Digital Audio Workstation apps.

MacAddict RATED



**GREAT**

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MADEO

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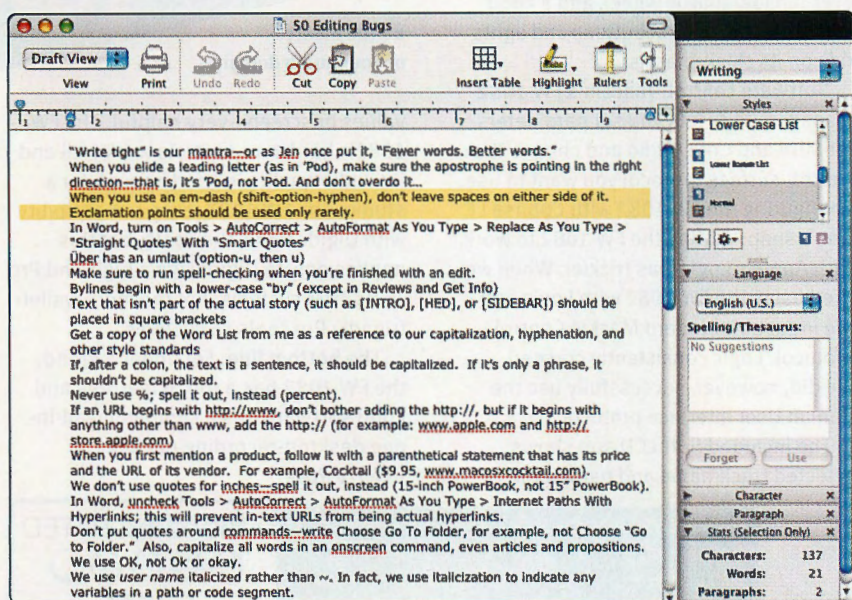


sound creative



# Nisus Writer Express

ALTERNATIVE WORD PROCESSOR



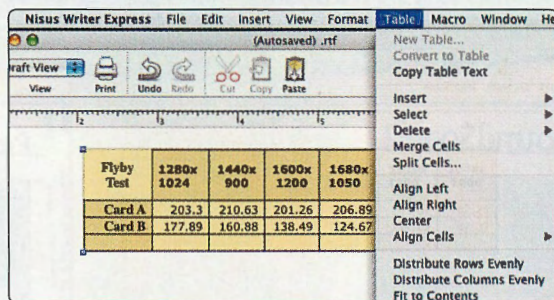
Nisus Writer Express's new features put it nearly on par with Microsoft Word.

So maybe iWork's Pages (Macworld May/04, p36) isn't the alternative to saggy, baggy Microsoft Word that we were hoping for, but the latest version of Nisus Writer Express comes close. Version 2.1.1 has a lot of new features, but it also has its fair share of limitations.

Longtime Express users in need of tables can finally stop holding their breaths—tools for creating tables have finally arrived. Express's table interface is easy to use and trumps Word's table tools. Importing tables from Word isn't perfect, however. A full page of address labels we imported ended up crammed into half a page, making the labels too distorted to print properly.

There are also tools for footnotes and endnotes, but they're not as complete as the tools in Nisus Writer Classic (more on NWC later). Also, Express files can now be placed into Adobe InDesign documents (they couldn't be in the previous version). Express's style-sheet support is far more convenient to set up than Word's dialog-based interface; it's supremely easy to

add and remove styles from text. You just select Style Sheet from the View menu in your document window's title bar; the window then changes to the style sheet for that document. You edit a style by



Tables are here—let the tabular fun begin!

clicking on it and choosing formatting options—there are no Word-like modal dialogs. Styles import perfectly into Word and InDesign. Also, Nisus Writer Express allows you to define a style with its Based On Selection function—but that only works with paragraph styles, not character styles.

The separate but integrated

thesaurus and spelling checker is nicely implemented. Click on a misspelled word, and you get suggestions for corrections. Click on a correctly spelled word, and you get synonym suggestions. It has a nonintrusive, easy-to-use interface and a decent selection of words, though it doesn't recognize every single word you might use.

There's a lot to like about the customizable tool drawer. It's convenient and easy to open and close. It doesn't float on top of documents like Word's tool palette, which can get in the way of your work. You can collapse the tool drawer or move it off the screen; it even scrolls so you can have a longer list of palettes than what fits on your screen.

**Slow find.** The bad news: Find And Replace can't replace text based on style—and it's incredibly, abysmally, appallingly slow. Replacing a single tab on every line in a 4,682-line file took eight and a half minutes in Express, compared to just over a second in Bare Bones Software's BBEdit. Plus, scrolling slows down considerably when editing

documents over 50 pages in length—though the scrolling speed is far superior to the previous version of Express.

We mentioned Nisus Writer Classic (aka Nisus Writer 6.5), Nisus's full-featured word processor. Because it's not native to Mac OS X, it only works in OS X's Classic mode. NWC still does a few things better than Express, such as HTML

export, which is the cleanest we've ever seen from a word processor. Express's HTML requires significant clean-up.

**The bottom line.** Nisus Writer Express isn't Nisus Writer Classic for OS X (darn it), but with its new features, Express is nipping at Word's heels. It's not a Word killer—yet—but it's definitely a viable alternative.—Mary Tyler



**COMPANY:** Nisus Software  
**CONTACT:** 858-481-1477, www.nisus.com  
**PRICE:** \$69.95 for single license, \$109.95 for Family Pack (three licenses)

**REQUIREMENTS:** G3 or faster, Mac OS 10.2.8 or later

**GOOD NEWS:** Tables, styles, footnotes, and endnotes. Compatible with Adobe InDesign.  
**BAD NEWS:** Minor bugs. Slow Find And Replace feature.

**MacAddict RATED**  
**SOLID**



# 321 LCD Monitor

## SHARP LCD MONITOR

Hey, you longtime Mac users, remember the Radius Pivot? If you do, you'll be instantly reminded of the Pivot as soon as you see LaCie's 321 LCD Monitor, a 21.3-inch display that has pivot capability. But don't think that the 321's only allure is the pivot—it's a terrific display for anyone who demands accurate color and fine graphic detail.

The 321 is encased in dark gray plastic that's sturdy enough to handle constant pivoting. Its height is adjustable, so you can finally use that phone book for what it was originally intended for. The display also comes with a hood to help combat glare. (It'll also prevent prying eyes from discovering you're doing something you shouldn't be.) The hood is removable—and you'll have to remove it when want to pivot the display to portrait mode.

The 321 has a full complement of adjustment options, easily configured using buttons below the screen; it also has VGA, DVI-D (all digital), and DVI-I (integrated analog and digital) ports.

**Pivot limits.** If you don't remember (or are too young to have seen) the Radius Pivot we mentioned earlier, let's take a stroll down memory lane. The Pivot was a 15-inch CRT monitor with an internal subsystem that automatically oriented the onscreen images when you switched



**Use it in landscape mode or portrait mode—but only if you have the right graphics card.**

from landscape to portrait mode (and vice versa). We bring up the Pivot because the 321 doesn't have such a subsystem. In fact, you need to have an ATI Radeon 9800 Pro (\$249 to \$299, [www.ati.com](http://www.ati.com)) video card to be able to use the pivot feature at all; if you have any other card, you're stuck in landscape mode. Even if you have an ATI Radeon 9800 Pro, the onscreen orientation doesn't automatically change—you have to change the orientation manually through the ATI utility before you pivot the display. It's not hard to do, but it would have

been nice if the 321 could change the orientation on its own.

Pivot quibbles aside, the 321 is an excellent choice for graphics work. Its color accuracy and vividness are excellent, text is sharp and clean, the brightness is even, and we didn't notice any color inconsistencies. DVDs look good on the 321, but the quality isn't as crisp as on Apple's 20-inch Cinema Display (Nov/04, p39).

LaCie includes a set of six ICC profiles to help manage the 321's color. For best color results, you should color-calibrate your 321 with LaCie's blue eye pro (\$349), which is specifically designed for use with the 321.

**The bottom line.** For color-critical work, you can depend on the 321.

—Roman Loyola

**COMPANY:** LaCie  
**CONTACT:** 503-844-4500, [www.lacie.com](http://www.lacie.com)  
**PRICE:** \$1,599

**REQUIREMENTS:** Mac OS X or later, ATI Radeon 9800 Pro video card (for pivot function)

**GOOD NEWS:** Excellent image quality. Useful pivoting option. Adjustable height.

**BAD NEWS:** Pivot works only with an ATI Radeon 9800 Pro graphics card. Screen image doesn't automatically reorient when you pivot.

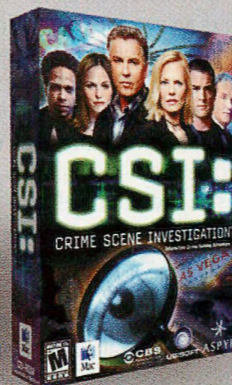
**MacAddict RATED**  
GREAT



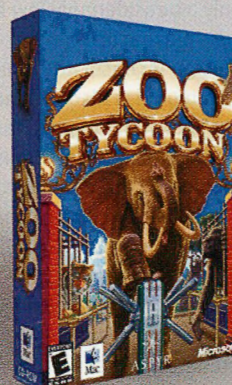
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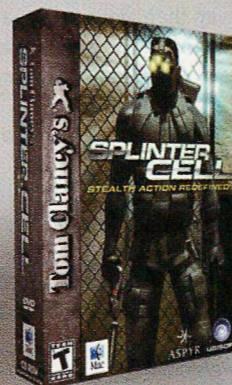
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# Giga Vu Pro

## DISAPPOINTING PORTABLE MEDIA VIEWER

We had high hopes for Jobo's brawny Giga Vu Pro—it's attractive and has an extravagant list of features that stacks up well against Archos's Gmini 400 (Feb/05, p44). But after a thorough test drive, we've decided that while the Giga Vu is a good photo viewer, it disappoints when it comes to everything else.

The 5.7-by-4.2-by-1.5-inch Giga Vu is portable but not pocket sized—unless you wear cargo pants. Its body is made of sturdy, black and gray plastic; it comes with a rubber front cover to protect its controls, ports, and 320-by-240-pixel 3.8-inch LCD; and its rechargeable lithium-ion battery supplies enough juice for about four hours of movie playback—but only a bewilderingly low six hours of music playback.

The Giga Vu has a 40GB hard drive (a 60GB model is also available); Microdrives and CompactFlash cards (Type I and II) can be used for additional storage, and you can drag and drop files to and from your Mac via the Giga Vu's USB 2.0 port. A second USB 1.1 port is reserved for PictBridge printing, but this feature was unfortunately out of commission in the 1.0.3 firmware we tested.

**Touchy.** We were excited about the Giga Vu's touch-screen interface, but it's restricted to certain contextual menus—and even then, your only available action is highlighting the current setting. You can't scroll through selections or make changes. Pretty useless.

Coming from a company whose forte is professional photographic equipment, it's not surprising to discover that photo viewing is this gadget's standout feature. JPEG, RAW, and TIFF formats are supported (no GIF, PNG, or BMP), and you can view histograms and individual

RGB channels. Viewing options include simple slide shows that can be set up for external display using the Giga Vu's video-out port and included cable.

**Not full screen.** The Giga Vu supports MPEG-1, MPEG-2, MPEG-4, and DivX 3, 4, and 5 video formats. MPEG files flowed nicely, although we encountered some annoying stuttering in our DivX rip of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. We also stared in disbelief when we connected the gizmo to our TV and our video clips refused to play in full-screen mode—just in a tiny box of video in the center of the screen. Jobo confirmed that this is a



**It's a handy photo viewer, but not a pro's Pro.**

hardware limitation—but at least it's limited to video and not still images.

If you require a versatile sound machine, you won't find it here. First off, digital-audio support is limited to MP3s and MP3s only—no WAV, WMA, or ACC. There are no EQ adjustments, no customizable playlists, and no track browsing by category. To make matters worse, audio from the hollow-sounding earbuds is downright dreadful. For a device that will set you back \$550 to \$600, it's a shame to have to shell out more dough for a better set of 'phones.

**The bottom line.** So much potential. So much of a letdown. We prefer the Gmini 400.—*Gil Loyola*

**COMPANY:** Jobo  
**CONTACT:** 734-677-6989,  
www.jobodigital.com

**PRICE:** \$549.95 (40GB, tested), \$599.95 (60GB)  
**REQUIREMENTS:** Mac OS 9 or 10.2 or later

**GOOD NEWS:** Good photo-viewing features. Support for CompactFlash Type I and II cards and Microdrives.

**BAD NEWS:** Low battery life. Limited touch screen functions. Plays only MP3 music files. Poor video-out capabilities.

**MacAddict RATED**  
○○○○○  
**50-50**

**A KVM switch for your BYODKM (bring your own display, keyboard, and mouse) Mac.**

## MiniView Micro USB Plus

### HANDY KVM SWITCH

Now that the Mac mini is here, keyboard-video-mouse (KVM) switches such as logear's MiniView Micro USB Plus should start selling like Elmo dolls on Christmas Eve. A KVM switch lets multiple Macs or PCs share the same monitor, keyboard, and mouse.

The MiniView is great if you only need to switch between two computers. All you have to do is connect the cables on the MiniView to your computers, connect the keyboard and mouse to either of the MiniView's two USB ports, and connect the monitor to the MiniView's VGA connector (if your monitor uses a different kind of connector, you'll need to purchase a separate adapter). The MiniView also has an audio-out port for your speakers.

When you're all set, power up the computer you want to use. There are two LEDs on the MiniView, one for each computer, which light up to tell you which computer is in control. To switch between computers, you simply press a key combination on your keyboard. We had to go to logear's Web site to find out the proper key combo (Clear-minus); the one in the manual doesn't work with Apple keyboards that don't have a Num Lock key.

**The bottom line.** The MiniView works seamlessly as a basic switch for two computers—Macs or PCs. We like it.—*Roman Loyola*

**COMPANY:** logear  
**CONTACT:** 866-946-4327, www.logear.com  
**PRICE:** \$69.99

**REQUIREMENTS:** Mac OS 8.6 or later, USB keyboard and mouse, VGA display connector.

**GOOD NEWS:** Easy to use. Audio-out port for speakers.

**BAD NEWS:** May need a VGA adapter for your display.

**MacAddict RATED**  
○○○○○  
**GREAT**



# Robin Hood: The Legend of Sherwood

ENTERTAINING STRATEGY GAME

Ambush a tax collector for his loot, lay siege to a castle, and restore the throne of England to its rightful heir—all in a day's work if you're the Prince of Thieves. In Robin Hood: The Legend of Sherwood, you go medieval as you guide Robin and his merry men through a multitude of missions.

The storyline of this real-time strategy game involves Robin returning from fighting in the Crusades only to find his fellow citizens oppressed by the rule of Prince John Lackland and his right-hand man, the Sheriff of Nottingham. Through the course of 16 missions (not counting ambush and defensive missions), Robin

abilities—Maid Marian, for example, is an accomplished herbal healer, and Friar Tuck is good at getting enemies drunk. Complete each goal with minimum carnage and maximum gold, and you'll be rewarded with more men to serve your cause. And the more men, the better—you can either use them in the next fray or put them to work collecting valuable resources, such as weapons and healing items, from Sherwood Forest.

**Good looking but greedy.** The game's top-notch graphics are lively and finely detailed, though there is some unsightly pixilation when you zoom in all the way—but chances are you won't need to be up close and personal very often. Both character and background animations are smooth, though we recommend a machine with more oomph than what's called for in Freeverse's minimum system requirements. For example, even with all special effects turned off at 640 by 480 pixels on an 800MHz iBook G4 with 640MB of RAM, we still saw some serious slowdown when large numbers of characters were on screen.

Strategy veterans will be instantly at ease with the third-person perspective, and once you have your hotkeys mapped to your liking, you'll have efficient control of Mr. Hood, Little John, Will Scarlet, and the rest of the crew in no time. Our biggest gripes: only eight maps, repetitive ambush missions, and no multiplayer mode.

**The bottom line.** Despite its few shortcomings, Robin Hood: The Legend of Sherwood is a solid effort indeed.

—Gil Loyola



**If you're going to play with men in tights, have a sword handy.**

gathers a ragtag group of allies, sets up camp in Sherwood Forest, and embarks on a journey to save King Richard and restore him to his role as rightful ruler.

Stealth is the key to navigating the game's isometric maps, and a careful plan of attack is essential. Success will be yours if you pick off enemies one by one, cleverly using the characters' special

**COMPANY:** Freeverse

**CONTACT:** 212-929-3549, [www.freeverse.com](http://www.freeverse.com)

**PRICE:** \$29.95

**REQUIREMENTS:** 300MHz G3, Mac OS 10.2 or later, 128MB RAM, 8MB video card

**GOOD NEWS:** Great graphics. Varied characters.

**BAD NEWS:** Few maps. Repetitive missions. No multiplayer mode.

MacAddict RATED



ASPYR

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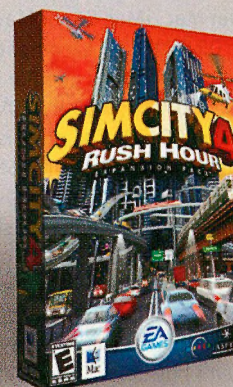
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# Final Draft 7

## HELPFUL MOVIE-SCRIPT SOFTWARE

Your Hollywood pitch won't mean diddly without a properly formatted script—one with your character names centered and capitalized and your scene-transition notes always flush right. Final Draft 7 streamlines the formatting so you can concentrate on writing rather than text alignment and fonts.

Final Draft works much like a word processor; it has many of the same tools, so you don't feel like you're using an app that isn't suited for writing. But Final Draft has additional features for quick formatting that go beyond what you'd find in a word processor, such as a toolbar menu with access to common script-formatting options. No more fiddling with paragraph formats in Word. Whew.

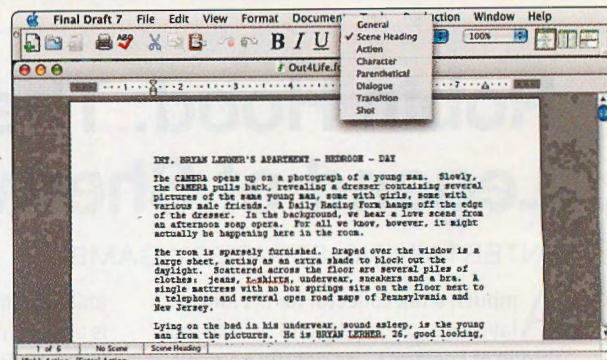
**Anticipation.** As you write, Final

Draft's Smart Type feature anticipates your next move. For example, when you type a character's name, Final Draft knows that it should be followed by a parenthetical comment or dialogue and suggests your next step.

When you choose your next step, the cursor moves to the proper position for you to continue writing. These actions really save time.

Final Draft includes a list of 90,000 character names—a helpful reference, but you can't add your own. Final Draft's Smart Type feature does, however, remember character names as you work.

Once you complete your draft, a split-screen feature lets you view a scene-



Final Draft provides instant access to proper screenplay and script formats.

location list in one window and the script in another. Script Compare merges two drafts into a third, adding colored text to note the differences. When it's time to shoot, Final Draft prints a scene-numbered version of your script.

**The bottom line.** Final Draft is like a good Hollywood assistant. It worries about the little things while you focus on the big picture.—Tom Lassiter



**COMPANY:** Final Draft  
**CONTACT:** 800-231-4055,  
www.finaldraft.com  
**PRICE:** \$229

**REQUIREMENTS:** Mac OS 9.2  
or 10.1 or later, 64MB RAM, 35MB  
disk space

**GOOD NEWS:** Easy script formatting. Smart Type feature helps promote efficient writing. Good script-management tools.  
**BAD NEWS:** Can't make additions to the names database.

**MacAddict RATED**  
GREAT

# DRX-710UL-T

## DASHING DVD BURNER

We like our disc-burning fast—and that's why we like Sony's DRX-710UL-T DVD and CD burner. This beauty provides a significant speed boost from the internal SuperDrive or combo drive in a Power Mac, iMac G5, or Mac mini.

The DRX-710UL-T is compatible with most forms of optical media: DVD+R, DVD+RW, DVD-R, DVD-RW, DVD+R DL, CD-R, and CD-RW. The drive is rated at 2.4X speed for DVD+R DL, 16X for DVD+R, 8X for DVD-R, and 4X for DVD-RW and DVD+RW. You can connect using either USB (the drive has USB 2.0) or FireWire 400—Sony even provides the cables.

The DRX-710UL-T comes bundled with Toast 6—a necessity, since Apple's iDVD 5 doesn't have dual-layer DVD support. If you want to make DVDs with up to four hours of MPEG-2 video, Toast 6 has got

you covered—though without the bells and whistles of iDVD.

**Performance.** Want better performance than what you get with your Mac mini's combo drive? You'll like the speed boost the DRX-710UL-T gives you. In our tests, the DRX-710UL-T was 40 percent faster than a combo drive in a 1.25GHz Mac mini when reading from the drive to create a 3.6GB DVD disc image. When burning a 640MB CD, the DRX-710UL-T was an impressive 47 percent faster than the combo drive.

You'll also see speed gains if you currently have a Power Mac with a SuperDrive. The DRX-710UL-T created a DVD disc image 23 percent faster than the SuperDrive in a dual 2GHz Power Mac G5—and again we saw a 47 percent difference when burning the DVD.



**A fast drive like this one makes us want even more speed.**

But double-layer burning is slow; the DRX-710UL-T took 40 minutes to burn a 7.4GB DVD—and that was without verification. Ouch.

**The bottom line.** The DRX-710UL-T reminds us why speed is so seductive. Now if only its double-layer performance would catch up.—Roman Loyola



**COMPANY:** Sony  
**CONTACT:** 877-865-7669,  
www.sonyburners.com  
**PRICE:** \$229.95

**REQUIREMENTS:** USB- or  
FireWire-equipped Power Mac G3,  
Mac OS 10.2 or later, 256MB RAM,  
200MB disk space

**GOOD NEWS:** Fast. Nice design.  
**BAD NEWS:** Pricey double-layer media.

**MacAddict RATED**  
GREAT



# RT5

## HEAVY-DUTY DISK ARRAY

There are some products that only true geeks can appreciate—WiebeTech's RT5 is one of them. We are enamored with the RT5's case, a sleek, solid block of aluminum and steel that would've made the late John DeLorean proud. The case is built to withstand traveling from location to location; it even has a carrying handle. The back of the case has two FireWire 800 ports, a



### Storage that's solid as a rock.

USB 2.0 B port, a Serial ATA port, and an RS232 port for PC-only management.

The RT5 houses five hard drives that can be configured as a RAID (Redundant Array of Independent Disks) Level 5, allowing you to hot swap a drive if a failure occurs—in plain English, you can remove and replace a hard drive without having to power down the RT5. Slick.

Each drive resides in an individual tray; slip your drive into a tray, slip the tray into the case, secure the metal latch, and you're set. The drives easily slide in and out, and the latches feel

nice and tight. The unit we tested (the RT5-600) came with five 120GB, 7,200-rpm Hitachi DeskStar hard drives for a total capacity of 600GB, but you can get the RT5 with 160GB, 250GB, or 400GB drives—or no drives at all. For added security, each drive can be individually locked into the case.

The RT5's backlit LCD panel provides information about the current status of the device. You configure your RAID setup with help from a menu displayed on the LCD, though it's not an intuitive task—you'll need your manual to make sure you're selecting the proper settings with the push-button controls.

**Speed.** When we tested the RT5, we configured it as a RAID 5 device—not the optimal setting for speed, but it provides excellent reliability—so that if a drive fails, you can still access all of its data. If all you care about is speed, you can configure the RT5 as a brisker RAID 0, but you won't have the benefits of RAID 5's fault tolerance, which defeats the main purpose of the RT5.

When connected to a dual 2.5GHz Power Mac G5 via FireWire 800, we found the RT5 to be 52 percent slower than the Power Mac's internal 160GB hard drive when duplicating a 2GB file in the Finder. In tests using the popular benchmarking utility Xbench (free, [www.xbench.com](http://www.xbench.com)), however, the RT5 bested the internal drive in 4KB uncached write performance (which mimics copying small files to the drive) with a big 149-percent boost in speed; 4KB uncached read performance was 87 percent faster.

**The bottom line.** If your work demands a boatload of storage space and you want bulletproof fault tolerance, or if you want to add additional safe storage capacity to a server, you'll like the RT5's flexibility and durability.—*Roman Loyola*

**COMPANY:** WiebeTech

**CONTACT:** 866-744-8722, [www.wiebetech.com](http://www.wiebetech.com)

**PRICE:** \$1,999.95 (as tested with five 120GB, 7,200-rpm drives; other configurations available)

**REQUIREMENTS:** USB 2.0—or FireWire 800—equipped Mac, Mac OS X or later

**GOOD NEWS:** Sturdy. Removable and hot-swappable drives. Well constructed. Looks good.

**BAD NEWS:** Mediocre performance when configured as RAID 5.

MacAddict RATED



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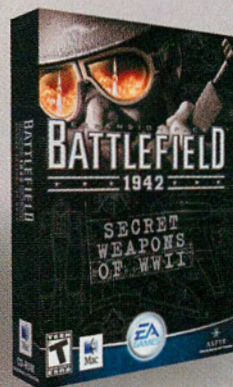
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# Doom 3



## HANDSOMELY HELLISH SHOOTER

After enviously watching our peecce pals play *Doom 3* for six months, the Mac version has finally arrived—and it really *does* live up to its advance billing. Unfortunately, that includes its rumored hefty hardware needs.

**The good.** *Doom 3* will scare the bejeezus out of you, especially if you play late at night with the lights turned low and the sound cranked up. Atmospherically, *Doom 3* is hands-down the best-looking game we've ever played, with creepy, dark (sometimes too dark) confines full of shapes,

Go to hell—it's every bit as scary and fun as you've heard.



shadows, and other eye trickery—every level is littered with glowing demon eyes, flying fireballs, blood, gore, and corpses. Eerie moaning, demonic chortling, anguished wailing, mad babbling, dirty scheming, and

industrial ambience all work together to make *Doom 3* one seriously spooky experience. When you finally get to hell, the visuals are incredible.

The game's various demons and zombies look fantastically sinister. Often, they surprise you by lumbering out of pitch-dark corners; sometimes, they appear amid a glow of reddish light, already swiping their claws or throwing fireballs at you. (Listen carefully and you can usually hear them grunt a bit before they reveal themselves.)

**The bad.** We were disappointed to discover that there is no surround-sound option in the Mac version as there is in the PC version. Also, the enemy AI can be pretty dumb, but that's forgivable—they're *zombies*, fer chrissakes.

**The ugly.** With even half the graphical eye candy enabled, *Doom 3* will reduce your Mac to a sniveling whelp—unless you have a top-shelf Mac with a video card such as nVidia's 6800 or ATI's Radeon X800 XT or 9800 Pro SE (the latter of which we used for our testing); if you have one of these cards, you can bump up some of the settings, but be warned: There are points where the game is going to stutter no matter how powerful your Mac and its graphics card are—chalk *Doom 3* up as another great game that's optimized to run better on a PC. Hopefully, future video-card drivers and Mac OS updates will improve *Doom 3*'s performance.

**The bottom line.** *Doom 3* is visually awesome with great atmosphere and good gameplay, but if your Mac isn't up to the challenge, it may wind up running (or slowly shuffling) like a zombie. *Doom 3* fully met our expectations—it's hellish, scary fun, and not for the faint of hardware.—*Niko Coucouvanis*

**COMPANY:** Aspyr Media  
**CONTACT:** 888-212-7797 or  
512-708-8100, [www.aspyr.com](http://www.aspyr.com)  
**PRICE:** \$49.99

**REQUIREMENTS:** 1.5GHz G4 (2GHz Power Mac G5 recommended),  
Mac OS 10.3.8 or later, 512MB RAM, ATI Radeon 9600 or nVidia GeForce  
FX5200 MX video card with 64MB VRAM, 2GB disk space, DVD drive

**GOOD NEWS:** Loads of scary fun. Awesome visuals.

**BAD NEWS:** Gameplay occasionally gets choppy even on the fastest Mac and graphics card.

**MacAddict RATED**  
GREAT



A good-lookin' keyboard for your masterful rendition of "Chopsticks."

## GarageKey

### BASIC MIDI KEYBOARD

MacMice's GarageKey is a 37-key, velocity-sensitive MIDI controller suited for newcomers to Apple's GarageBand. The keyboard's white plastic and clear acrylic matches Apple's current lineup of entry-level Macs. The acrylic riser legs create a nice little space under the GarageKey where you can slide your regular keyboard, cutting down on desktop clutter.

Functionally, GarageKey is almost as bare bones as Apple's mouse. There are

#### KEYBOARD = KEYBOARD

GarageBand newbies: Did you know that you can use your Mac's keyboard as a musical instrument? GarageBand's Musical Typing allows you to play any software instrument through your keyboard. Select Window > Musical Typing, and you'll see which Mac-keyboard keys correspond to which music-keyboard keys.

TIP

two buttons on either side of the USB port (located in the rear center) to shift the octave up and down—and that's it. There is no pitch bend or modulation wheel. If you'd like those niceties, check out M-Audio's Keystation 49e (\$129.99, [www.m-audio.com](http://www.m-audio.com)), which sells for \$10 more and offers the aforementioned wheels *plus* a sustain-pedal input—not to mention 12 more keys.

**The bottom line.** Good looking and convenient, GarageKey is fine for a novice who doesn't care about the extras.—*Andrew Tokuda*

**COMPANY:** MacMice **PRICE:** \$119.99  
**CONTACT:** 615-822-9270, [www.macmice.com](http://www.macmice.com)  
**REQUIREMENTS:** USB-equipped Mac, Mac OS 10.3 or later

**GOOD NEWS:** Aesthetically pleasing. Plug and play. Velocity-sensitive keys.  
**BAD NEWS:** Pricey for its meager feature set.

**MacAddict RATED**  
SOLID



# Popcorn

## EASY-AS-PIE BACKUP SOFTWARE

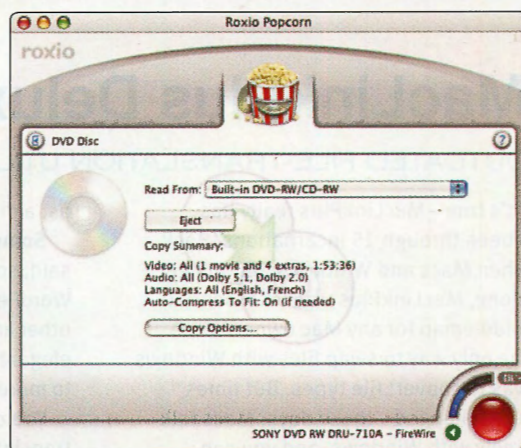
Add Roxio's Popcorn to your utilities toolkit if you have simple DVD-backup needs. Popcorn will probably look familiar to anyone who uses Roxio Toast 6 Titanium (\$99.95, [www.roxio.com](http://www.roxio.com)); it uses a Toast-like interface but has only the most basic features.

Copying data from an unencrypted source DVD is as easy as inserting the disc into your Mac, dragging its icon from the desktop to the Popcorn window, and clicking the Record button. No sweat. If you've already created your disc image or VIDEO\_TS content folder, Popcorn also easily reads those sources.

**Dual-layer squeeze.** When it comes to compressing data from an 8.5GB or 9GB dual-layer DVD to fit on a 4.7GB single-layer DVD, Popcorn is the best

DVD backup app we've seen. To cut down on file size, you can choose to either exclude non-video features such as foreign-language files or compress the video more tightly—which, unfortunately, often results in blocky and discolored (but watchable) video. Other apps that can fit dual-layer DVD data onto a 4.7GB disc do a fine job of compressing all the data, but they have a big heap of confusing options and poorly documented special features for performing less-common tasks.

Now, we're aware that some of you just want to know if Popcorn can make "backups" of your commercial DVDs. It can't—Popcorn doesn't circumvent



Drag. Drop. Duplicate. Duh.

the Content Scrambling System (CSS) used by commercial DVDs. If you're determined, you can figure out how to break CSS, but we're not going to help you break the law.

**The bottom line.** Popcorn is simple, stable, and worth the money for anyone with DVD-backup needs.—Noah Tsutsui



**COMPANY:** Roxio  
**CONTACT:** 866-280-7694,  
[www.roxio.com](http://www.roxio.com)  
**PRICE:** \$49.99

**REQUIREMENTS:** G3 (1GHz G4 recommended), Mac OS 10.2.8 or later, SuperDrive or DVD burner

**GOOD NEWS:** Easy. Stable.

**BAD NEWS:** Doesn't give suggestions on beating CSS protection (hmm, maybe that should be good news).

MacAddict RATED



# FY400

## FLAT-SOUNDING MP3 PLAYER

For a flash-based MP3 player, the FY400 is one sleek number. But once you don the FY400's headphones and get a load of its lackluster sound, you'll be reminded that looks aren't everything.

Nice and compact at 1.2 by 3.1 by 0.8 inches, the FY400 is conveniently portable, but we question its durability—its flimsy plastic shell made us fear dropping the unit. On the plus side, its controls are intuitive, with a tiny four-way thumb joystick for menu navigation. It's easy to find and operate the large, grooved volume dial by touch when the player is stowed in a pocket or purse.

But one word best describes the audio on the FY400: flat. Even after extensively tinkering with the player's equalizer and enabling different sound presets (studio,



If only it sounded as good as it looks.

concert, groove, and bass boost), we couldn't rid our tracks of a persistent drab tone. A better set of headphones helped a tiny bit, but by and large, our attempts to create livelier music proved frustratingly fruitless.

The FY400 can record audio through its built-in microphone or from a stereo, CD player, or other device connected to its headphone jack. You can even record from the player's FM tuner, which provides good reception. A single AAA battery keeps the player going for a good 16 hours (yeah, MPIO claims 20 hours, but 16 is nothing to sneeze at), and the FY400's USB port is retractable—no need to worry about a vanishing cap.

**The bottom line.** Despite its nice features, it's tough to overcome the FY400's earful of blah.—Gil Loyola



**COMPANY:** MPIO  
**CONTACT:** 858-554-1300, [www.mpio.com](http://www.mpio.com)  
**PRICE:** \$119.99 (128MB), \$149.99 (256MB), \$219.99 (1GB)

**REQUIREMENTS:** USB-equipped Mac, Mac OS 9.2 to 9.x or X or later

**GOOD NEWS:** Good looks. Long battery life. Good FM reception.

**BAD NEWS:** Doesn't feel solid. Flat sound.

MacAddict RATED





# MacLinkPlus Deluxe 15

## OUTDATED FILE-TRANSLATION UTILITY

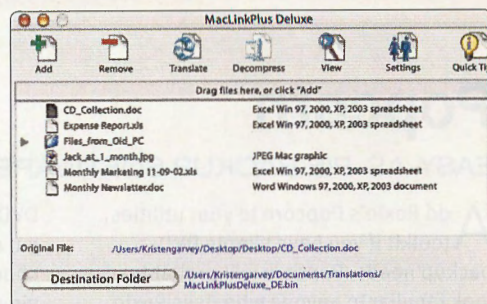
It's true—MacLinkPlus really has been through 15 incarnations. Back when Macs and Windows couldn't get along, MacLinkPlus was an essential middleman for any Mac owner, since the only way to swap files with Windows was to convert file types. But times have changed—these days, Macs talk freely with Windows, and you can swap Photoshop, Word, and Excel files between the two with nary a thought.

If that's the case, then why would you need MacLinkPlus 15? You probably don't. Despite its ability to translate files from almost any format to almost any other format, the world has moved on. The days of receiving an email with an unreadable attachment are, for most of

us, a distant memory.

**Someone needs it.** That said, some Luddites still use WordPerfect, Foxbase, or some other ancient app, and MacLinkPlus elegantly translates those formats to more-modern ones.

You can set up commonly used translations in a contextual menu and even tag them for sending to an email address. For example, say you use Word and your friend uses AppleWorks. You save your Word file and then click on the file using the MacLinkPlus contextual menu; MacLinkPlus translates the file to AppleWorks and compresses it before attaching it to an email, ready to send to your friend—very handy, as is its ability



**Nice software—but do we still need an app like this?**

to strip text out of PDFs.

And how's this for a new feature: MacLinkPlus can send documents to your iPod for storage—useful if you're too lazy to mount your 'Pod on your desktop for drag-and-drop copying.

**The bottom line.** It's not that MacLinkPlus Deluxe 15 is bad software. It's just that the times when you need it may be few and far between—only you can judge whether it'll be worth your investment.—Mark Sparrow



**COMPANY:** DataViz  
**CONTACT:** 800-733-0030,  
www.dataviz.com  
**PRICE:** \$79.99, \$39.99 upgrade

**REQUIREMENTS:** Mac OS 10.2 or  
later, 25MB disk space

**GOOD NEWS:** Easy to use. Translates multiple file types.  
Quick preview function. Strips text from PDFs.  
**BAD NEWS:** A bit expensive. Somewhat dowdy interface.

**MacAddict RATED**  
●●●●●  
**SOLID**

# OneTouch II FireWire and USB

## BOOTABLE BACKUP DRIVE

Like its predecessor, the OneTouch (●●●●● Feb/04, p53), the OneTouch II external hard drive creates backups at the touch of a button. Unfortunately, it took some work to create a bootable backup with the original OneTouch. Thankfully, the OneTouch II can make a bootable backup at the touch of a button.

The OneTouch II comes with Dantz's Retrospect Express (www.dantz.com) backup software. The first time you push the button on the front of the drive, you'll answer a few simple questions to complete the backup script (the default settings create a bootable backup of your internal drive). If you want to get fancy, you can create Retrospect scripts for customized, automatic, or multiple drive backups, but your new scripts won't work with the button. Also, Retrospect doesn't



**If you only back up when you're leaving a parking space, the OneTouch II may be for you.**

allow you to keep multiple versions of files, although you can do incremental backups as a workaround.

**Button, button.** The OneTouch button doesn't have to be used for backup. You can use the bundled Maxtor

OneTouch Settings app to reassign the button to launch a file or app other than Retrospect. The Settings app also includes DriveLock, which lets you set a password to protect the OneTouch II's hard drive.

You can also partition the drive and use the second partition for additional storage (but you won't have a backup of those files unless you set up a separate script). One last thing: Even though the OneTouch II has both FireWire 400 and USB 2.0 connectors, the drive is only bootable over FireWire.

**The bottom line.** If backup scripts and scheduling are just complicated enough to prevent you from backing up regularly, the Maxtor OneTouch is a simple solution. It's certainly easy—as long as you remember to push the button.—Kristina De Nike



**COMPANY:** Maxtor  
**CONTACT:** 800-262-9867,  
www.maxtor.com  
**PRICE:** \$279.95 (250GB), \$299.95 (300GB)

**REQUIREMENTS:** FireWire: Mac OS 9.1 or later or 10.1.2 to 10.1.5; FireWire and USB: Mac OS 10.2.4 or later; 64MB RAM for OS 9; 128MB RAM for OS X

**GOOD NEWS:** Easy to use. Creates bootable backups. Fast.  
**BAD NEWS:** Can't back up multiple drives with button function. Won't keep multiple file versions.

**MacAddict RATED**  
●●●●●  
**GREAT**



## Never Lose Anything Again



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## Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six 3: Athena Sword

INTRIGUING BUT UNINVENTIVE TACTICAL SHOOTER

Athena Sword is similar to its predecessor, Raven Shield. Very similar.

Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six 3: Athena Sword is the latest expansion pack for the tactical shooter, Rainbow Six: Raven Shield (Aug/04, p53). While the missions are new, Athena really just offers more of the same thing—whether that's good or bad depends on how much you liked Raven Shield in the first place.

In Raven Shield, Team Rainbow had the task of stopping neo-fascist terrorists from detonating a bomb in a South American city. Well, guess

**Enemy AI has been tweaked, but not by much.**

what? In Athena Sword, the remnants of that same terrorist group are putting a similar plan into motion; except this time, they're headed to Mediterranean Europe. How original.

The good news is that the change of venue brings the Rainbow Six team to some stunning settings, all beautifully rendered in fine detail: an art gallery, a Monaco hotel, a medieval fortress, and hot spots in Milan and Athens. What's more, the levels are big and well designed, providing a mix of close-quarters combat and wide-open action.

**Weaponry.** Of course, there are the obligatory new weapons—a Beretta

M93R handgun, a shotgun, and five other weapons—but the guns don't feel like they're introducing anything new; we can't imagine anyone but a gun enthusiast getting excited about them.

Enemy AI has also been tweaked, but not by much. Enemies now occasionally toss grenades, but they still can't coordinate their attacks very well, nor do they seem to notice when you're noisily massacring their buddies in the next room. Also, there are still some lapses in your teammates' ability to navigate through doors and around other obstacles.

The big new improvements come in the multiplayer department—there are five new multiplayer maps and five new online game modes. One mode has two online teams competing to kill computer-controlled terrorists (and each other). Another mode lets you capture members of the opposite team by shooting them and then quickly handcuffing them (though they can be freed by teammates).

**The bottom line.** Athena Sword has all the realism and tension of Raven Shield, but it winds up feeling like a carbon copy. Still, if you loved the original game, you probably won't care; despite the old maxim, you can't have too much of a good thing.—*Helmut Kobler*

**COMPANY:** Aspyr

**CONTACT:** 888-212-7797, [www.aspyr.com](http://www.aspyr.com)

**PRICE:** \$49.95

**REQUIREMENTS:** 733 MHz G3, Mac OS 10.2.8 or later, 256MB RAM, 32MB ATI Radeon 7500 or nVidia GeForce 2 video card, 3.2GB disk space, original Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six 3: Raven Shield game

**GOOD NEWS:** Beautiful, detailed environments. Immersive sound design.  
**BAD NEWS:** Occasionally dumb enemy AI. Breaks no new ground.

MacAddict RATED  
SOLID



# Dora the Explorer: Animal Adventures

## CUTE KIDS' GAME

If you have kids, games like Dora the Explorer: Animal Adventures are a great way for them to master the mouse. Animal Adventures is cute, fun, and easy for kids three years of age or older.



**Dora tiene gusto de jugar con los monos.**

You play Dora, who's helping some distressed animals (as distressed as animals in kids' games get, anyway) in the rain forest. You play a series of games to help the animals: matching games, pattern-memorizing exercises, counting activities, and more. Preschoolers will like the games, though kindergartners might find them too easy. And although Dora and other characters often exclaim words in Spanish, the vast majority of the dialogue is in English—this game isn't useful for teaching Spanish.

**The bottom line.** Dora is a good way to spend time at the Mac with your wee one.—*Roman Loyola*

**COMPANY:** MacSoft

**CONTACT:** 866-512-9111,  
www.macsoftgames.com

**PRICE:** \$19.99

**REQUIREMENTS:** 400MHz G3, Mac OS 10.1.5 or later,  
128MB RAM, 8MB ATI Rage 128, 250MB disk space

**GOOD NEWS:** Easy and fun. Sprinkles of Spanish spoken in game.

**BAD NEWS:** More information about the animals would've been nice. Not truly bilingual.

**MacAddict RATED**  
●●●●●  
**SOLID**

# Big Tiki Drive

## KITSCHY FLASH DRIVE

All of today's sleek, sophisticated hardware makes us yearn for wacky devices such as CharisMac's FireWire Dino (●●●●● Jul/03, p55), which you can now unfortunately find only on eBay. TikiMac's Big Tiki Drive satisfies our jones for the brassy and bold.

The Tiki is made of urethane resin solid enough to take a beating, and it comes with a lighted USB cable. The drive is preloaded with iTunes Internet audio playlists to access Hawaiian radio, lovely Hawaiian desktops, and Tiki icons. Fun!

**The bottom line.** The Big Tiki Drive at our side, Waimea Canyon on our desktop, and "Papalina Lahilahi" on iTunes—it's almost like being in paradise.—*Roman Loyola*



**All you need now is some Spam and a couple of torches.**

**COMPANY:** TikiMac

**CONTACT:** 303-830-0124,  
http://kilauea.tikimac.com

**PRICE:** \$59 (256MB), \$79 (512MB, tested),

\$119 (1GB), \$229 (2GB), \$429 (4GB)

**REQUIREMENTS:** USB, Mac OS 9.1 or 10.1.2 or later

**GOOD NEWS:** Solid and able to withstand punishment. Good software goodies. Includes lighted USB cable.

**BAD NEWS:** Mai tai not included.

**MacAddict RATED**  
●●●●●  
**GREAT**

# Your digital music never looked so good.



**The Roku SoundBridge Network Music Player** plays your PC or Mac music files anywhere in the house, connecting your stereo or powered speakers to your digital music library or to Internet radio. SoundBridge works seamlessly with the most popular networking products and music formats (WMA, AAC, MP3, AIFF and WAV) and offers plug-and-play compatibility with Windows® Media Connect, iTunes®, Rhapsody™ and more — and since it's PlaysForSure verified, you know it'll work with the widest range of music services.

Available at Best Buy, Fry's, Tweeter, Magnolia, rokulabs.com, and other stores.



★★★★★  
Wired Editor's Pick — Rated 5 out of 5



**ROKU™**  
rokulabs.com

For information about SoundBridge and other Roku products, please visit [www.rokulabs.com](http://www.rokulabs.com)

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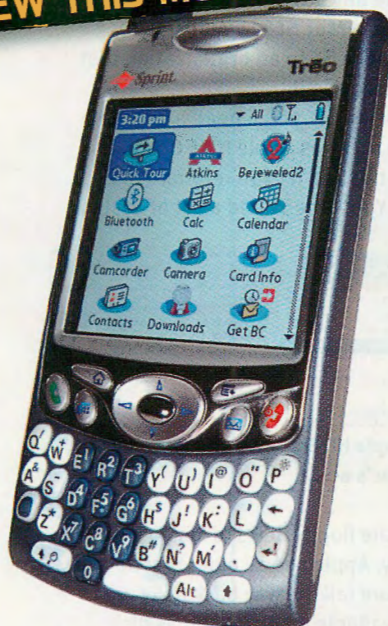


# the HotList

THE BEST OF THE BEST FROM RECENT REVIEWS

SHOPPING?  
HERE'S WHAT WE  
RECOMMEND

NEW THIS MONTH



## palmOne Treo 650

Gadget guru Cathy Lu calls this Bluetooth- and camera-equipped beauty "the most elegant fusion of phone and PDA available."

## SOFTWARE

### AUDIO

Ableton Live 4	\$499.00	Jan/05, p43	This top real-time sequencer now has improved MIDI powers.
Bias SoundSoap Pro	\$599.00	Jan/05, p42	Got noise in your video? Here's the app to clean it up.
Native Instruments Reaktor 4	\$559.00	Jun/04, p56	If you can imagine a sound, you can create it with this synth.

### GAMES

Aspyr Call of Duty	\$49.99	Sep/04, p52	This shooter has tons of action, detailed locales, and fun.
Blizzard World of Warcraft	\$49.99	Apr/05, p40	This rich online role-playing game is more addictive than nicotine.
MacSoft Halo: Combat Evolved	\$49.99	Mar/04, p38	It's as awesome as your Xbox buddies say it is.
MacSoft Unreal Tournament 2004	\$39.95	Jun/04, p48	The best first-person shooter adds new vehicles and weapons.

### GRAPHICS & LAYOUT

Adobe InDesign CS	\$699.00	Feb/04, p46	More features and easier navigation make layout a snap.
Adobe Photoshop CS	\$649.00	Feb/04, p44	Just when you thought Photoshop couldn't get better, it did.
Adobe Photoshop Elements 3.0	\$89.99	Mar/05, p36	Adobe's affordable image editor gets a significant upgrade.
Corel Painter IX	\$429.00	Feb/05, p38	This natural-media champ is now faster and more capable.
Macromedia Dreamweaver MX 2004	\$399.00	Jan/04, p48	Our favorite Web-design tool adds improved CSS support.
Nik Multimedia Color Efex Pro 2.0	\$299.95	Jan/05, p41	You'll be amazed by this plug-in's filters and darkroom effects.
Strata 3D CX	\$695.00	Dec/04, p43	Whether you're a 3D newbie or expert, this app's for you.

### PRODUCTIVITY & UTILITIES

Bare Bones Software BBEdit 8.0	\$179.00	Jan/05, p36	By far the most powerful text editor money can buy.
FileMaker Pro 7	\$299.00	Jul/04, p46	A complete rewrite vaults this database into the big leagues.
Microsoft Office 2004	\$399.00	Aug/04, p42	Enhancements to every app add up to a worthy upgrade.

### VIDEO & ANIMATION

Adobe After Effects 6.5	\$699.00	Sep/04, p46	This upgrade is strong enough to be called version 7.
Discreet Combustion 3	\$995.00	Sep/04, p47	If you're serious about video compositing, get this software.
Vidvox Grid2	\$75.00	Feb/05, p39	Join the VJ ranks with this MIDI-capable video-mixing software.

## HARDWARE

### ACCESSORIES

Apple AirPort Express	\$129.00	Oct/04, p48	This portable wireless router will stream your iTunes music.
Canary Wireless HS10	\$59.95	Apr/05, p44	This device finds hotspots and reports on network status.
palmOne Treo 650	\$699.00	May/05, p44	It's the best PDA-and-cell-phone combination on the market.

### AUDIO & VIDEO

Canon Optura Xi	\$999.00	Aug/04, p38	High-end features distinguish this mid-priced camcorder.
MCE Technologies QuickStreamDV	\$729.00	Aug/04, p57	This rugged DV-encoding drive includes a hot-shoe mount.
Native Instruments Guitar Rig	\$499.00	Nov/04, p40	Killer software plus a sturdy stomp box will wow any guitarist.
Tivoli Audio iPal	\$129.99	Nov/04, p50	You won't believe the sound of this compact radio and speaker.

### DIGITAL CAMERAS

Canon PowerShot A85	\$299.99	Mar/05, p40	This 4-megapixel point-and-shoot beauty takes great pictures.
Nikon D70 Digital SLR	\$1,299.00	Jul/04, p50	It's as close to perfect as any digital SLR camera we've seen.

### PRINTERS

Canon i560	\$89.99	Sep/04, p28	Ninety bucks can buy an exceptionally capable photo printer.
Canon i860	\$119.99	Sep/04, p29	This printer's Photo Black cartridge makes color photos pop.
Canon i900D	\$199.99	Sep/04, p31	Gorgeous prints, CD printing, color-LCD editing—all good stuff.

### SCANNERS

Epson Perfection 2580	\$149.00	Oct/04, p37	This flatbed handles both reflective and film scans with ease.
Epson Perfection 4180	\$199.00	Oct/04, p39	Superior image quality earns this scanner our recommendation.
Microtek ScanMaker i320	\$119.00	Oct/04, p35	Killer photo-rescue software comes with this affordable unit.

### STORAGE

ILY SlimDVDup	\$699.00	Apr/05, p45	Quickly duplicate CDs and DVDs without tying up your Mac.
LaCie Big Disk Extreme 500GB	\$429.00	Aug/04, p55	Cutting-edge technology provides cutting-edge performance.
LaCie d2 DVD±RW Double Layer	\$179.00	Feb/05, p48	Cram 8.5GB of data onto DVDs with this speedy burner.
OWC Mercury Pro DVD-/+RW	\$159.99	Aug/04, p60	This speedy drive includes everything you need to start burning.
WiebeTech G5Jam 1TB	\$1,299.95	Aug/04, p59	This internal 4-drive RAID makes a Power Mac G5 scream.
WiebeTech TrayDock	\$169.95	May/05, p49	This slick hard-drive enclosure provides the ultimate in flexibility.

## WiebeTech TrayDock

Although Reviews Editor Roman Loyola admits this handy hard-drive enclosure "may be more expensive than some external drives," its ability to easily hot swap drives makes it "well worth the cash."



# ask us

## SHOUTING SHUFFLE

**Why does my iPod shuffle insist on shouting its name in ALL CAPS when I mount it on the desktop?**

The iPod shuffle is formatted for Windows so it can work as is on either Macs or PCs. An annoying side effect of this is that the shuffle's name appears in ALL CAPS in the Finder. The real rub is that if you use Disk Utility to reformat your iPod shuffle in the Mac's case-sensitive Mac OS Extended (HFS-plus) format, it no longer works as a digital music player. Learn to live with your iPod's VERY LOUD NAME.

Is this a sign of small-Pod syndrome?



## SEARCH SCOPE

**I do a lot of specific research and have a list of specific Web sites where I want to search for information or**

**images. Do you know any way that I can limit a search to a specific list of Web sites?**

Search-engine technology has come a long way since the old days of using Boolean operators (and, or, not) to sort search results. These days, most every search engine has a link labeled Advanced Search, which leads to a page with assorted pull-down menus, check boxes, and text fields you can use to refine your search. We've found Excite ([www.excite.com](http://www.excite.com)) and Yahoo ([www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)) to be the most congenial about accepting long lists of Web sites to search.



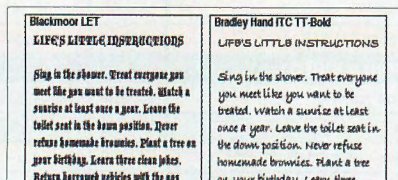
**Search for your terms on your own terms.**

## FONT SAMPLES

**I'm looking for a freeware or shareware app that runs in Mac OS 10.2 (Jaguar) and can print out samples of all my fonts.**



Lemke Software's FontBook (\$10, on the Disc or download from [www.lemkesoft.de/en/fontbook.htm](http://www.lemkesoft.de/en/fontbook.htm)) is the ticket—just don't confuse it with Apple's Font Book, which



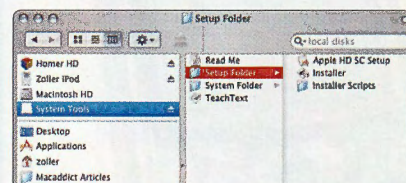
**FontBook offers visual previews of fonts.**

appeared in OS 10.3 (Panther). Lemke's FontBook lets you print all your fonts in a variety of formats for easy viewing and choosing; Apple's Font Book doesn't.

## CLEAN SE

**Is there any software to wipe the hard drive on a Mac SE? I would like to donate the SE to an organization that would recycle it.**

To wipe an SE, you'll need a bootable floppy that has Apple HD SC Setup on it—this will let you reformat the drive. You'll then need a set of System



**Use Apple HD SC Setup to clean up your old Mac's act.**

Software floppy disks to install a system. Luckily, Apple has all older System Software (all the way back to System 6.0) available for download as disk images. Get all the software you need at [http://download.info.apple.com/ApplesupportArea/ApplesoftwareUpdates/English-North\\_American/Macintosh/System/Older\\_System](http://download.info.apple.com/ApplesupportArea/ApplesoftwareUpdates/English-North_American/Macintosh/System/Older_System). There is a catch, however: If your SE doesn't have the original SuperDrive (capable of accepting 400KB, 800KB, and 1.44MB floppies), you'll have to find a way to get the disk images onto 800KB disks. That's all that older SEs accept—and all current USB floppy drives only accept 1.44MB floppy disks.

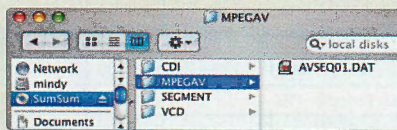
# quick answers

## SEE A VCD

**Can I play a VCD on my computer?**

Yes, but you need to use QuickTime Player, not DVD Player. Insert your VCD into your optical drive, open QuickTime Player (/Applications), and choose File > Open Movie In New Player. Locate a folder called MPEGAV on your VCD and select

the file inside with the .dat extension. The movie will open in a QuickTime Player window for your enjoyment.



**Play VCD via QT.**

## PASSWHAT?

**I forgot my Mac OS X master password.**

**How can I recover it?**

Sorry, you can't—but you can reset it. Insert your Mac OS X install CD or DVD and

restart your computer while holding down the C key. This will boot your computer off the CD or DVD. Once booted, choose Installer > Reset Password and follow the instructions to reset your password.

## SPYWARE

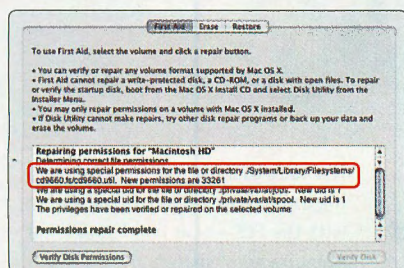
**I've been trying to locate a Mac anti-spyware app, but most everything seems geared toward Windows. How can I protect my Mac from spyware?**

We haven't seen any Mac-able spyware yet, but an ounce of prevention doesn't hurt. Give MacScan (free, <http://macscan.securemac.com>) a try.



## ERRONEOUS ERROR

Whenever I run Disk Utility to repair permissions, I get a message about /System/Library/Filesystems/cd9660.fs/cd9660.util needing repair. Is there something wrong with my system? Since Mac OS X is essentially a UNIX system, there are expected permissions for just about every file. This holds true for cd9660.util, a file that helps your Mac burn CDs in the ISO 9600 format. Apple set special, non-standard permissions for this file to plug an obscure security hole. This is a normal status message, and nothing is wrong with your system.



Don't be alarmed by this innocuous status message. Everything's OK.

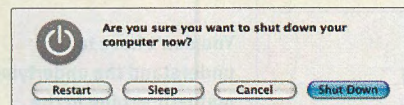
## LOGINUS INTERRUPTUS

**How can I stop my Mac from automatically logging in at startup?** Start (or restart) your Mac. When the blue screen with the Mac OS X startup progress bar appears, hold down either one of the Shift keys. This will force the login window to load with a list of the Mac's users. Bonus: Hold the Shift key *before* the startup bar appears to start in Safe Mode, which checks your disks and starts up the Mac with only its core system items enabled—no

## NAP NOW!

**What is the keyboard shortcut to put my new iMac G5 to sleep?**

First, press Control-Eject. Then, when you see the dialog box asking whether you want to Restart, Sleep, Cancel, or Shut Down, press the S key and your iMac G5—like any modern-day Mac—will go nighty-night.



Say goodnight, Mac.

# UNIX UNIVERSITY

## TERMINAL COMMANDS FOR THE REST OF US

Do all those UNIX command-line commands have to be so arcane?

Admittedly, most of the UNIX command-line weaponry is geared toward programmers and scientists, but there are some simple and useful little utilities available in the Terminal. Here are some of our favorite "Regular Joe" commands: **cal** This simple calendar shows the current month. You can also type **cal year** (**cal 2020**, for example) to show that entire year. **date** This simply gives you the current date and time. **bc** This provides basic calculator functions. Just type **bc**, press Return, read the wussy disclaimer, then type in an equation. Press Return for the answer. **uptime** Tells you the current time, how long your computer has been running,

how many users are logged in, and the load average in terms of valid processes in the past 5, 10, and 15 minutes.

**top** Shows a dynamic list of all your Mac's active processes until you type **q** to exit; if your Mac feels sluggish, use this command to see if some background process is hogging processor cycles.

**kill** Terminate an active process by typing **kill** followed by the PID number of a process (as displayed by the **top** command). Typing **kill 439**, for example, would force the process with the PID number of 439 to quit.

**man** Type **man command** (**man kill**, for example) for the official lowdown on that command and its usage.

PID	COMMAND	%CPU	%MEM	TIME	#TH	#PRTS	#REGS	PRVT	RSHRD	RSIZE	VSIZE
544	screenapt	0.0%	0:00.01	1	27	35	348K	900K	181.6K	91.3M	
542	top	9.1%	0:07.69	1	17	26	328K	464K	784K	27.1M	
540	top	0.0%	0:00.02	1	13	20	356K	696K	872K	22.1M	
539	Safari	0.0%	0:06.74	5	186	257	9.78M	21.5M	19.0M	1.65M	
501	Terminal	0.9%	0:03.69	3	60	139	1.20M	11.0M	5.14M	1.39M	

Top tells us that Safari's PID is 539; so we could type **kill 539** to force-quit it.

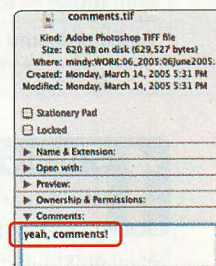
AirPort, Bluetooth, or other add-ons. Safe Mode is Mac OS X's version of booting with extensions disabled, an old troubleshooting standby.

## COMMENTATION

**How can I add and view comments on my files in the Finder?**

Comments are a terrific way to annotate your files with extra information that doesn't fit in the file name. To turn on the Comments column, open a Finder

window in List view and select View > Show View Options (or press Command-J). Under Show Columns, click the box labeled Comments. To add your own comments, select a file and choose File > Get Info (Command-I). This brings up the Get Info dialog; click the Comments disclosure triangle, then type your comments in the field that appears. That text will now show in the Comments column in List view—and you can cram a surprising amount of text into that Comments field.

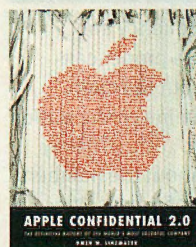


No comment? Add your own.

## READ UP

**Are there any good books out there about the history of Apple and the Mac?**

There are quite a few books available, but our favorite is *Apple Confidential 2.0*, written by the previous author of this here column, Owen W. Linzmayer. Run, don't walk—or maybe just click—and get it from No Starch Press (\$19.95, [www.nostarch.com](http://www.nostarch.com)).



Buz is a graphic designer living in Florida. He has been a devoted Mac user for over 10 years and has worked for both Apple and Power Computing.

**Submit** technical questions or helpful tips directly via email ([askus@macaddict.com](mailto:askus@macaddict.com)) or c/o MacAddict, 150 North Hill Dr., Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005.



# Boost Your Wireless Connection

**TRICKY**

by Niko Coucouvanis



## WHAT YOU NEED

AirPort-equipped Power Mac G5 or AirPort Extreme Base Station with modem and antenna port (\$199, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com))

Pringles Potato Crisps can

N-female chassis-mount RF connector (such as the RFN-7653P Chassis-Mount N Female, \$6.03, [www.smelectronics.com](http://www.smelectronics.com))

Pigtail cable with N-male connector and antenna socket matching your access point (\$19.95 for 18-inch AirPort Extreme/Power Mac G5-compatible pigtail cable, [www.cantenna.com](http://www.cantenna.com))

Soldering iron

3-inch 12-gauge copper wire

Mini tripod or lots of duct tape

Small nuts and bolts

It's easy to build a Wi-Fi antenna big enough to get you in hot water with the FCC—or at least your local homeowners' society.

Looking to give your wireless connection some oomph? We'll show you how to boost (in any sense of the word) your wireless connection by building two types (cheap and cheaper) of Wi-Fi boosters to bolster your signal strength and range. Then we'll show you how to use your new turbo 'tenna with some free software to monitor your own network, pinch free Internet access from neighbors' networks, and other dubious deeds. If you're not into tinkering and soldering, you *could* buy a premade can antenna (\$49.99, [www.cantenna.com](http://www.cantenna.com)), but where's the fun in that?



PHOTOGRAPH BY SAMANTHA BERG

## 1 Physics Is Your Friend

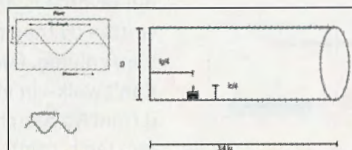
We'll spare you the grueling signal-frequency and wavelength physics behind designing a proper can-based antenna. However, if you're curious about the math behind the madness, you can find plenty of online configuration guides such as the excellent one at Flakey.info (<http://flakey.info/antenna/waveguide>). If you don't care about the numbers, just trust our findings: We discovered that the ideal can has a diameter of around 80mm—the size of a can of Pringles Potato Crisps.



Not only will this can boost your AirPort reception, it'll also supply a tasty snack.

## 2 Cop a Can-Do Can

First, hit your kitchen pantry or local food mart for a can of the appropriate size. As we said, a Pringles can is nearly the perfect size—and, no, it doesn't matter if you choose Original, Ranch-Rageous, or Reduced Fat Sour Cream and Onion; any can with a conductive interior and a diameter between 70mm and 100mm will do. (The Flakey.info folks had good results using a J&B Rare whiskey tin from Portugal.) Consume whatever consumables came with your can, wash the can, and get to it.

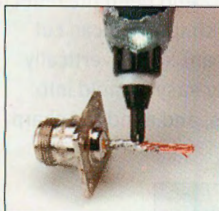


You don't have to understand the underlying math—just plug in the numbers.



### 3 Solder On the Stub

To turn your N-female connector into an antenna pickup, solder a piece of wire onto the end. Physics tells us that the focal point—the tip of the pickup—should be exactly 30.5mm (one quarter of the wave's wavelength in the air) from the wall of the can. So measure the length of the connector

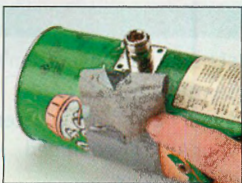


you're soldering it to and subtract that value from 30.5mm; cut a matching length of 12-gauge copper wire and solder it directly onto the N-female connector as shown in the photo.

**In antenna-speak, this is what's called the focal point.**

### 4 Mount the Chassis Mount

More physics finagling dictates to attach the chassis mount exactly 70.5mm (one quarter of the in-can standing wavelength of 282mm) away from the bottom of the can, so we need to poke a hole whose center is 70.5mm from the bottom of the can. If you're using a Pringle's can, this part is easy: Poke your hole with a pencil, and secure the connector in place with duct tape. If you're using a metal can, don your protective eye gear and carefully drill a hole the same size as your N-female connector (a 3/8-inch drill bit worked for us). If



your connector has mounting holes, secure it to the can with small nuts and bolts; if not, use your soldering iron, hot glue gun, or duct tape.

**Congratulations—you just built an antenna. Now plug it in.**

### 5 Plug In the Pigtail Cable

What type of pigtail cable you need depends on what you'll be plugging your antenna into. If you're geeky enough, you can even make your own pigtail cable. Everyone else can get prefab pigtail cables to fit most any known wireless device from the Cantenna Web site (\$19.95 for the 18-inch AirPort Extreme/Power Mac G5 version, [www.cantenna.com](http://www.cantenna.com)).



**Getting the right type of connector on your pigtail cable is half the battle.**

### 6 Stick It Somewhere

Now simply plug the free end of your pigtail cable into the antenna port on the back of your AirPort-equipped Power Mac G5 or AirPort Extreme Base Station with modem and antenna port. If you're serious about maxing out your home wireless, consider moving your Base Station or router or adding an extra access point or three to the spot that best suits your needs: For example, set up a router and antenna near a window if you're looking to hitchhike on unsecured 'nets in your 'hood.



**A cheap tripod makes a fine antenna mount. It's even adjustable!**

## The Cheaper Alternative: a Parabolic Reflector

EASY



Parabolic reflectors look dangerously geeky, but they're quite harmless—and simple to make.

### WHAT YOU NEED

Wireless access point with external antenna

Parabolic antenna template (donationware, [www.freeantennas.com/projectstemplate](http://www.freeantennas.com/projectstemplate))

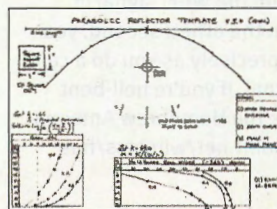
Reflector material: flat metal, screen-door mesh, or tin foil glued to cardboard

Base material: sturdy cardboard, Styrofoam, or balsa wood

As geeky as the can-style antenna is, there's another solution that's even more low-tech looking—and actually works better than the can in some cases. The beauty of this alternative is that you probably have suitable materials around the house; and if not, you can buy them for pocket change. And the geek-ghetto look of the thing speaks for itself. We'll use an empty cereal box, tin foil, and of course, some duct tape. Other suitable materials include chicken-wire fencing, a metal screen, or tin roofing material for the reflective part; plus cardboard, Styrofoam, or balsa wood for the base.

### 1 It's All About the Dish

Physics plays a big role in making a parabolic reflector, so once again, it's best to rely on the hard work of others. In this case, enterprising wireless hacker Michael Erskine provides free templates (donations appreciated, [www.freeantennas.com/projects/template](http://www.freeantennas.com/projects/template)) for cutting and bending your half-bowl reflector. The keys here are proper placement of the reflector around the focal point (your access point's built-in antenna) and the shape of the parabolic curve. With that in mind, the best material for the reflector would be something firm yet malleable, tacked to a nice, solid balsa-wood base.

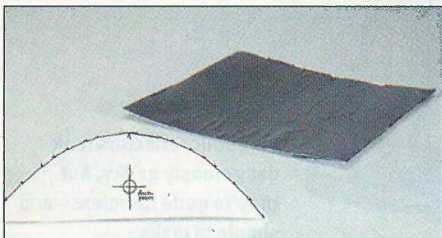


**This template is all you really need—plus a cereal box and some tin foil.**



## 2 Bust Out a Base

The template comes in two widths: six or 10 inches. We didn't have a wireless device big enough to fit a reflector larger than either of those sizes, but if you do, you can scale up the template in Photoshop or on a copy machine and watch us drool in envy. To create the reflector's base, cut a semi-circular piece of cardboard, Styrofoam, or balsa wood to fit the template's curve, and make a small hole to match the focal-



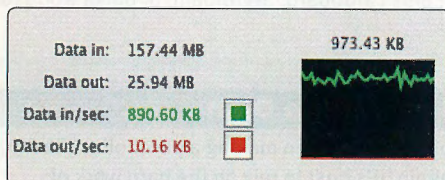
point mark. Make your hole small—you can stretch it later, and you'll want the antenna to fit snugly.

Proper placement of the antenna hole is paramount to this project.

## 4 Fit and Finish

Finally, just slide the reflector's base hole over your router's antenna and aim the reflector's opening in the direction you want to boost your signal. If your router has dual antennae, you can use the smaller template and make a reflector for each antenna.

To fine-tune your antenna, fire up an AirPort-equipped Mac or iBook and get a friend to sit by the router, tweaking, bending, and repositioning the reflector while you download large files from the Internet or another machine on your network. You could monitor your wireless signal on the AirPort status icon in your menu bar, but Mac OS 10.3.x has a more-precise gauge. Launch Activity Monitor (/Applications/Utilities) and click the Network tab. Keep an eye on the Data In/Sec value while your friend adjusts the router's reflector to find the strongest signal. Note that the wireless signal is a wily beast—aside from tweaking the reflector, repositioning the router itself (up on a shelf or sideways, for example) can have a dramatic effect on the signal.



**Activity Monitor shows us how fast the data's flowing.**

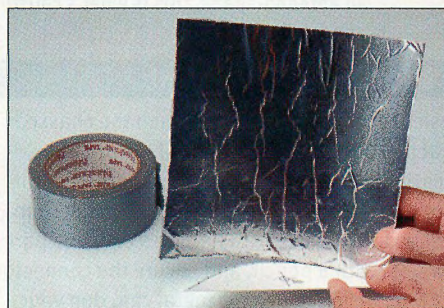
## Can-clusions

After building several variations of both the can- and parabola-style Wi-Fi boosters, we found the parabolic reflectors much easier to work with for several reasons: First, they simultaneously restrain the Wi-Fi signal in one direction while boosting it in the other; second, you don't have to aim the device as precisely as you do a can antenna in order to pick up a signal. If you're hell-bent on hacking a can antenna, check the Homebrew Antenna Shootout Web page ([www.turnpoint.net/wireless/has.html](http://www.turnpoint.net/wireless/has.html)) for more tricks.

## 3 Bend the Bowl

Now pick your reflective material—if you're cheap like us, cut open a cereal box and cover one side with tin foil (don't skimp on the glue!). When cutting the reflector, height doesn't matter, but keep the width in line with the template's Side Length dimension.

Now, take the base you made in step 2 and bend the reflector around it, taping it securely to keep the shape. You can cut an empty tin can (or foil-lined Pringles can) in half vertically to make an efficient reflector that's fairly easy to mold into shape—just be careful with the tin snips, and mind the sharp edges you create when cutting the can.



The more malleable your reflector material, the easier it will be to fine-tune it later.

## 5 Go Forth and Filch

It's a little-known fact that most home Wi-Fi users don't bother protecting their networks with any password security. That's good news for you and your new signal booster. To scout out your local airwaves from your AirPort-equipped Power Mac G5, download MacStumbler (free, [www.macstumbler.com](http://www.macstumbler.com)) or grab it off this month's Disc. Once you launch it, MacStumbler starts sniffing the airwaves, returning a list of network names—if the word "No" appears in the WEP column for a particular network, you can access that network without a password. If you're using an AirPort Extreme Base Station, fire up the AirPort Admin Utility (/Applications/Utilities), select the WDS (wireless distribution system) tab, and follow the simple directions to scan for and join available networks. If you're using other hardware, set your router to act as a signal repeater or access point (the method for doing this varies by router; we found it in the Advanced section of our D-Link router's online configuration tool) so it will look for available networks.

SSID	Chan	Signal	Noise	WEP	Vendor
101	11	45	0	Yes	unknown
belkin54g	11	71	0	Yes	unknown
PCR_BR	1	24	0	No	unknown

SSID	Chan	Max Sig	WEP	Last Seen	Vendor
PCR_BR	1	25	No	12:49PM 03/16/05	unknown
belkin54g	11	72	Yes	12:49PM 03/16/05	unknown
101	11	45	Yes	12:49PM 03/16/05	unknown

**We won't show you how to break into closed Wi-Fi networks, but guess what? Everybody leaves them open anyway.**



Niko Coucouvanis never thought that the Pythagorean Theorem would help him in real life.



# Be a 'Book-Savvy Traveler

by Russ Hunter

## WHAT YOU NEED

PowerBook or iBook running Mac OS 10.1 or later

Apple Open Firmware Password utility  
(free, [www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/apple/openfirmwarepassword.html](http://www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/apple/openfirmwarepassword.html))

Whether you and your 'Book are traveling for business or pleasure, the right preparation is essential. We'll show you how to secure your system for the trip, get the most juice out of your battery, and ensure that your 'Book is a blessing rather than a burden.



iBooks and PowerBooks are portable by design—and a little smarts on your part can go a long way.

## 1 Batten Down the Hatches

We know you're sensible enough to follow a regular data-backup regimen, so we'll leave that up to you. But you should also protect your 'Book from nefarious types who might want to walk away with it. Open Firmware to the rescue! Open Firmware is a chunk of processor- and system-independent firmware that kicks in before anything else when you press your power-on button. If Open Firmware doesn't start up, nothing does—and you can tell it to ask for a password before it goes into action. Once you set an Open Firmware password on any Mac, nobody (including you) will be able to boot it without that password, even if they try booting off of an external drive, a CD, or in FireWire Target Disk Mode. Apple provides a simple, safe utility for setting up Open Firmware password security,

along with detailed instructions, at <http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=120095>.

Open Firmware is like "Open sesame"—just don't lose the password.

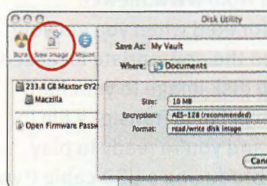


## 2 Encrypt Selectively

Panther's FileVault (System Preferences > Accounts > Security) offers additional security by encrypting the contents of your home folder. But if you're prone to forgetting passwords, know that FileVault encrypts your entire home directory; if you forget the passwords (there's a second Master Password for safety), you'll never get in. An excellent (and safer) alternative is to create an encrypted disk image with Disk Utility. Launch Disk Utility (/Applications/Utilities/Disk Utility) and click New Disk Image. Type a name and select an image size from the Size menu; choose AES-128 from the Encryption menu, leave Format at the default option (Read/Write Disk Image), and click Create. Disk Utility asks for a password; once you supply one, the new disk image mounts on the desktop, ready to securely stash your files. When you unmount the disk image, you'll need your password to mount it again.

When you unmount the disk image, you'll need your password to mount it again.

An encrypted disk image is nearly bulletproof—especially if you forget the password.

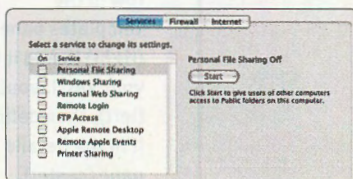


## 3 Set Some Settings

Spend a little quality time in System Preferences to make your 'Book more energy efficient and less hackable. Open System Preferences > Energy Saver. In the pull-down menu labeled Optimize Energy Settings, select Longest Battery Life (if there's only one pull-down menu, click Show Details). Select Battery Power from the Settings For pull-down menu, and fine-tune the settings as you like. To keep potential hackers and crackers at bay, turn off all of your Sharing services; open System

Preferences > Sharing and make sure none of the services are checked on.

Turn off all your services—unless you want to service the world.



## 4 Be a Wiser Miser

A typical 'Book uses as much power during two hours in sleep mode as it does booting up, so shut yours down if you're not using it for an extended period of time. Avoid plugging in an external mouse, iPod, or any other peripheral—they all suck battery power. Turn off your AirPort card when you're not using it. Mute your sound when you're not listening to anything. Use F1 and F2 to dim your display to the lowest comfortable level. And if you're lucky enough to have one of those ultra-sexy PowerBooks with the backlit keyboard, turn that power-sucker off in System Preferences > Keyboard & Mouse.

Common sense goes a long way; if you're not using AirPort, turn it off.

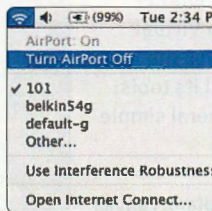


ILLUSTRATION BY WILLIAM RIESER

Russ Hunter and his iBook have been around, proverbially speaking.



# Turn Your Mac into a Virtual Remote

EASY

by Dave Prochnow

## WHAT YOU NEED

IRTrans USB Interface and iRed for Mac bundle  
(€85.50 or \$112 at press time, [www.irtrans.com](http://www.irtrans.com))

Wow Wee Robosapien robot (\$99.99, [www.radioshack.com](http://www.radioshack.com)) or other IR-controlled device

When the question of “Where’s the dang remote?” becomes “Which remote controls the dang TV?” it’s time for a change. You could simply kill your TV and other remote-controlled devices, but we’ve got a better idea: Turn your Mac into the ultimate remote control. Not a programmer? No problem. We’ll show you how to use the IRTrans USB infrared transmitter with its companion IR-fluent software, iRed (\$25, [www.filewell.com/iRed](http://www.filewell.com/iRed)), to send infrared signals from a Mac to an IR-compatible device. (Unfortunately, the IrDA transmitters on some older Macs don’t speak IR.)

To show you just how easy it is to turn your Mac into a virtual remote control, we



This robot isn’t especially useful, but the infrared principles directing his robo-dance have useful real-world applications.

recruited Robosapien—an IR-controlled toy robot that was all the rage a couple of holiday seasons ago. We’ll show you how to set up IRTrans and iRed to make your Robosapien karate chop, dance, and rap to a different drummer: your Mac. You can also follow these steps to teach your Mac to control your TV, DVD player, or other IR-compatible device.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SAMANTHA BERG

## 1 Get the Goods

Plan ahead and order the USB version of IRTrans early: It’s the only Mac-compatible IR transmitter we know of, and it ships from Germany. While you’re waiting for it to arrive, download the latest version of iRed from [www.filewell.com/iRed](http://www.filewell.com/iRed)—you’ll get your license for iRed when you get your IRTrans. First, copy the iRed app and the appropriate localized (Deutsch or English) folder from the disk image to your hard disk, then double-click the FTDI Driver For IRTrans.pkg file to install the driver. Restart your Mac and you’re ready to play RoboGod. Your first miracle will be producing a USB cable (type A-B), because when your IRTrans arrives from Germany, there won’t be one in the box.



First things first: Install the app and driver.

## 2 Start with an Empty Control

When you launch iRed, the app greets you with a blank, brushed-aluminum remote-control interface on your Mac’s screen—a Virtual Remote Control (VRC), in iRed’s terms. Click the Edit button to expand the template and reveal its tools: a rudimentary button-layout tool and several simple detail commands.

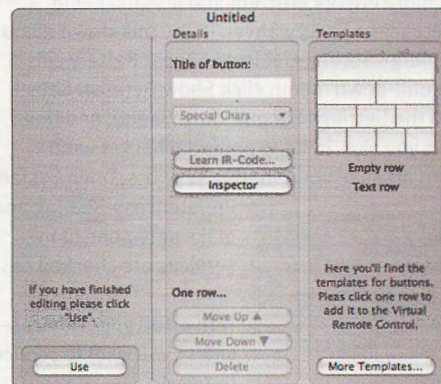


iRed starts you off with a blank canvas.

## 3 Bust Out Some Buttons

To add buttons to your VRC, start in the Templates section at the right-hand side of the VRC designer. Click one of the button rows to add a row of one to four buttons to your VRC. Note that iRed’s left-hand column will always show the general layout of your VRC. If you want to get fancy with your buttons, click More Templates to access more button options.

For now, in the interest of keeping it simple, click the topmost selection in the Templates pane to add a single button to the top row of the VRC (with a live preview in the template, by the way). Then proceed to the center column, labeled Details, and give your new button a name. We used the letter *P* to represent the button’s function, which is Robosapien’s Master Program command—a fourteen-step Robosapien demo.



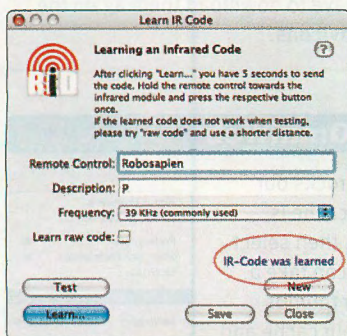
Click on a button row in the Templates pane (right) to add it to your VRC layout (left); then define it in the Details pane (center).



## 4 Learn the IR Code

Now it's time to teach your Virtual Remote Control the Robosapien's dialect. Press the Learn IR Code button to bring up the Learn IR Code dialog. iRed automatically picks up the name of the button (in our case, P) defined in step 3, but you'll have to manually enter the Remote Control name the first time (after you save the VRC, this field will retain your VRC's name). The default 39KHz frequency works great with the Robosapien—you can change it to match other devices.

Now for the magic: Get the remote-control unit that came with your Robosapien; press the Learn IR Code button (remember, we're already in the Learn IR Code dialog), and press the corresponding button on the real remote within five seconds. In this case, press Robosapien's Master Program button to educate the P button we created on our VRC. If everything goes according to plan, iRed displays the "IR code was learned" message; if it doesn't work, just try again. Test your recording by pointing the IRTrans unit at Robosapien and pressing the Test button in the Learn IR Code dialog to send the signal. If your Robosapien performs his designated Master Program, it worked! Press iRed's Save button and add more buttons to your VRC.



**Sorry to disappoint, but there's no programming required: Your virtual remote learns directly from your real one.**

## 5 Button It Up

As slick as iRed is, teaching it more than a couple of buttons can get tedious—but iRed has a secret power-user function that will speed things along. Start by adding all of your device's buttons to the VRC template—you'll teach it the IR codes later. We named our buttons according to the Robosapien's naming convention (all upper-case letters without any spaces), so the 'bot won't get confused if we want to get fancy later with multi-step Robosapien programming in AppleScript or HTML (see "Extra Credit: Skin That Sucker," right).

Once you've added and named all your buttons, press Command-S to save your VRC—be sure to use the same name that you entered in the Remote Control field in the Learn IR Code dialog. Now here's the power secret: Select a button and Shift-click (instead of regular click) on the Learn IR Code button. This bypasses the dialog box and gets right to sending the IR signal from Robosapien's remote to IRTrans.

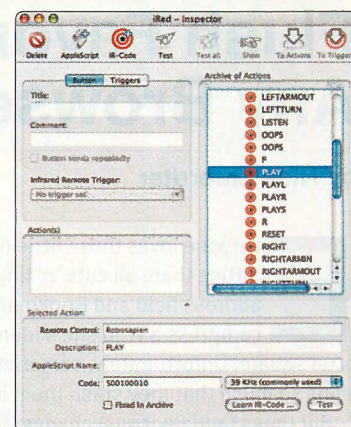
**Chock-full o' buttons, our virtual remote is ready for action—or further education.**



## 6 Testing, Testing, One, Two, Three

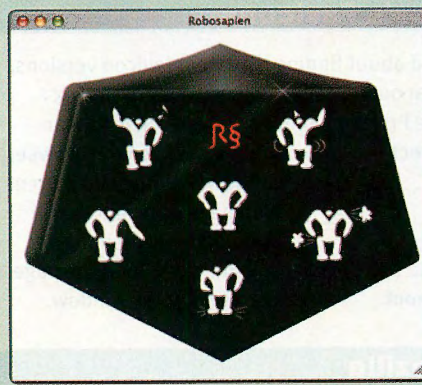
To test your VRC, first click iRed's Inspector button. The Inspector window lists all your VRC's buttons so you can review and test each button's IR code. Note that you can also learn IR codes via the Inspector's Learn IR Code button—it works like the one on iRed's main interface.

**Double-check and fine-tune your VRC in iRed's Inspector.**



## EXTRA CREDIT: SKIN THAT SUCKER

If you've got some HTML smarts and Web tools, it's easy to put a pretty face on your VRC. Sure, the brushed-aluminum VRC looks OK, but you want a remote control that looks, well, Robosapienian. Lucky for you, iRed contains a built-in HTML-code interpreter. All you have to do is create the look you want in Photoshop or another imaging app and save it as a JPEG image file. Then create the buttons by using Adobe's ImageReady or GoLive or Macromedia's Dreamweaver to define image-map coordinates, and roll it into an HTML file. If you can't swing an image map, you can use individual images for each button, or use plain-text links. (iRed includes templates you can modify.) iRed uses HTML-like hyperlinks, only with the ired protocol instead of http, like this: `<a href="ired://send?Robosapien&command">command</a>`. On this month's Disc, you'll find our six-button Robosapien skin in a file named Robosapien.html. Open that file in BBEdit or another text editor to view the source code and see how easily we glommed several buttons' IR commands together for more-elaborate Robosapien programs.



**You can even dress your virtual remote up with simple HTML.**

Dave Prochnow is building on his newfound friendship with Robosapien by assembling an enormous selection of Robosapien tips, programs, and hacks for his forthcoming book, *A Hacker's Guide to Robosapien* (TAB Electronics, 2005).



# Flush Favorites Icons from Any Browser's Cache

EASY

by Nick Muerdter

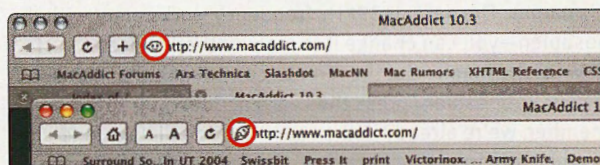
Everyone loves those little favicons (favorites icons). Sitting there all cute 'n' tiny in your browser's Web address field and Bookmarks or Favorites list, they compress a Web site's identity into a wee 16-by-16-pixel square. Unfortunately, sometimes browsers love these icons so much that they stash them in a cache—and never let go.

But times (and favicons) change; like you and your parachute

pants, favicons don't have to live in the past forever. Manually clearing a cached favicon is

## WHAT YOU NEED

A Web browser with an uncooperative cache and outdated favorites icons



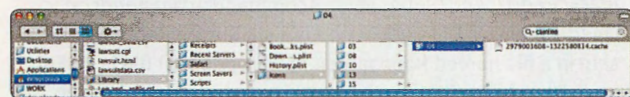
We updated MacAddict.com's favicon 10 months ago—but Safari had no clue.

easy once you know your browser's secret handshake. Note that in most browsers, the process clears out your whole cache (which saves images and files from Web sites you've visited on your hard drive so you don't have to download them again the next time you visit), not just favicons.



## Suck Out Safari's Icons

Safari hoards favicons shamelessly; to loosen its death grip on those tiny, helpless things, quit Safari and navigate to /Users/user name/Library/Safari. Inside the Safari folder, there should be an Icons folder. Move that entire Icons folder to the Trash. Launch Safari and watch it snag the latest version of each site's favicon. If you only want to remove a few of your favicons, check out Safari Icon Manager (free, <http://homepage.mac.com/macg3/sim>), which provides an interface for selectively clearing favicons.

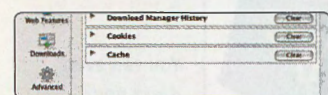


For such a savvy browser, Safari sucks when it comes to icons.



## Free Firefox's Favicons

Firefox is usually good about finding the latest favicon versions, but here's how to clear out its cache anyway. Select Firefox > Preferences, go to the Privacy pane, and then click the Clear button in the Cache section. Click OK to go back to your browser



Firefox is all but foolproof.

window. Reload your current Web page to reveal the updated favicon; if that doesn't work, load the page in a new Firefox window.



## Mac on Mozilla

Mozilla (the foundation for Firefox and Camino) is as cache-happy as Safari, but clearing things out is easy enough. Select Mozilla > Preferences and click the disclosure triangle to expand the Advanced section. Click the Cache option, click the Clear Cache button, then click OK.



## Omit Oldies in OmniWeb

Yet another reason OmniWeb rocks our collective socks: Cleaning its cache is dead simple. Open OmniWeb, then select OmniWeb > Flush Cache. This can take a few moments, so twiddle your thumbs while OmniWeb delves into your cache and removes every trace of favicons. Reload a Web page and admire the new favicon.



No toilet jokes here. Move along, folks.



## Clear Camino's Cache

Like Mozilla, Camino needs a good clearing in order to get new favicons to load. Unfortunately, Camino doesn't provide the click-a-button ease of the other Mozilla-based browsers. To clear out Camino's cache, first quit Camino, and then head to the Finder. Inside your home folder, open Library > Application Support > Camino. Move the Cache directory to the Trash. Relaunch Camino and squeal like a schoolgirl as new, current favicons start filing in as you surf the Web.



## Open Up, Opera

Mac Opera users (both of you) will be pleased to know that in our tests, Opera always grabbed the latest copy of the favicon from the server. But that makes us wonder if anything is being cached at all. What do you have to say about that, you two?



## RIP, IE

Internet Explorer for Mac doesn't do favicons—and it's been discontinued anyway. Get a new browser, hippie!

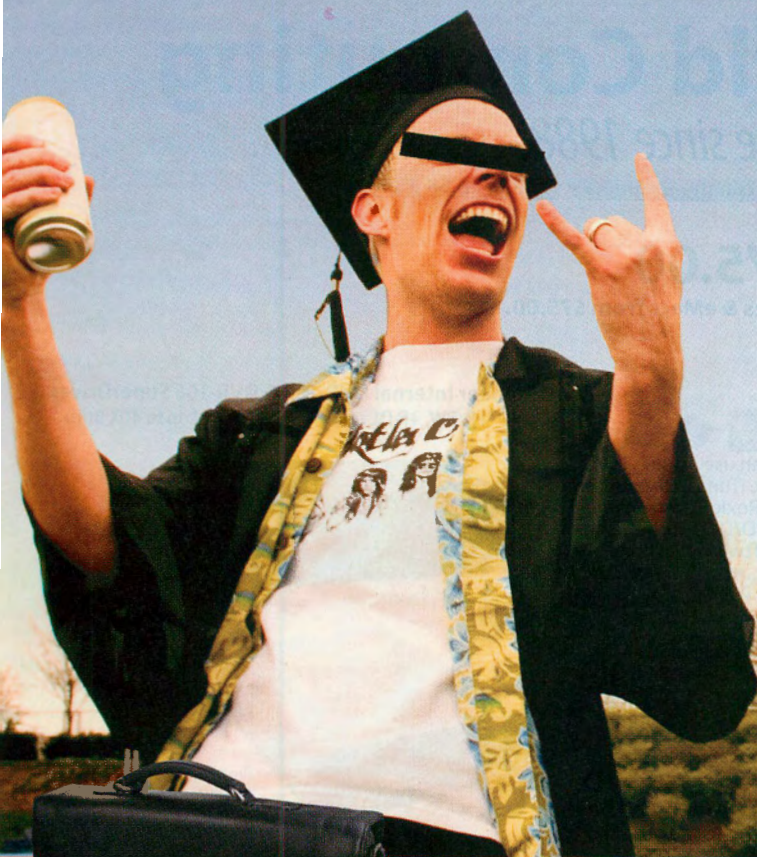


Nick Muerdter is too sexy for his favicon—but not for his vintage parachute pants.



# D+ Student

## A+ Gear



### CEO Milano

High quality leather, sleek lines, plenty of built-in features and large capacity make this the sublime choice for business laptop protection. Custom fit for PowerBooks of every size.

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### H2O Audio SV-iMini

Bring on the Phish! The SV-iMini is the first waterproof housing for Apple's iPod mini that offers full access of the iPod's controls while you're snorkeling with your finned friends.

**h2o audio**



### iSkin eVo2

A rainbow of silicone goodness, sized for all full-sized iPods. It's the hippest way to show your iPod's colors.

**iSkin**



### LiliPod

The original watertight iPod case. Playlist Magazine says "for waterproof protection, it's currently the best game in town."

**LiliPod**



### Laptop Armor

Laptop protection never looked so good, in black, white, or aluminum. Adapts to securely hold laptops from 12" to 17".

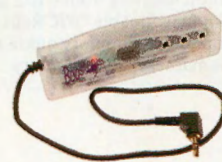
**matias**  
corporation



### SportSuit Convertible

Still the best-selling iPod case, and with good reason: full protection, lots of color choices, and even accessory packs!

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innovative products for the Apple market



### Boostaroo

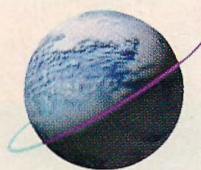
Patented technology revs the iPod up to new and mind-blowing levels, all while allowing you to share the love with 2 friends.

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### PowerMac G5 & iMac G5

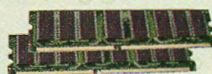
All Models up to Dual G5 2.5GHz  
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512MB Module **\$49.99**

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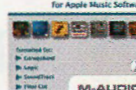
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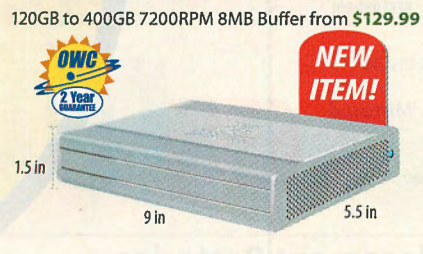
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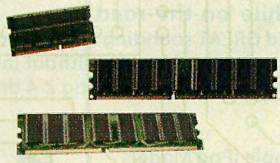
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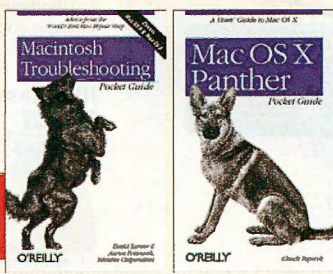


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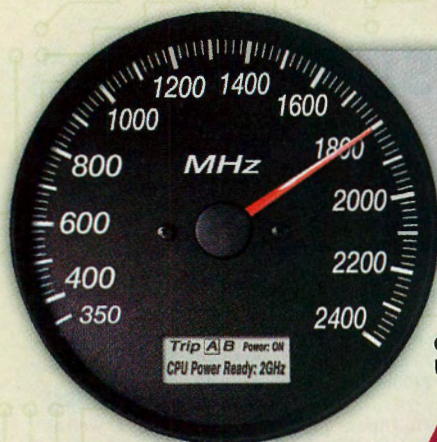


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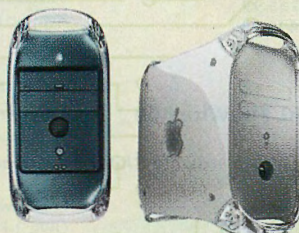
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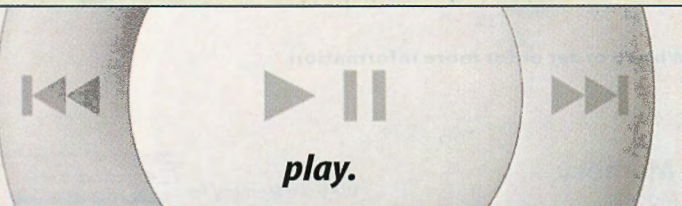
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50% more capacity vs. original

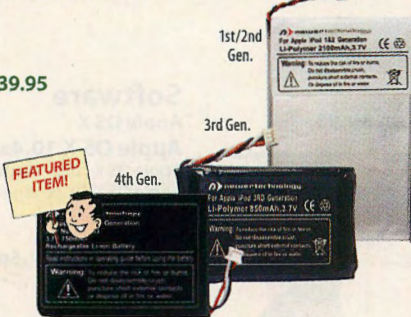
NuPower 2100mAh Battery for all 1st & 2nd Gen iPods **\$39.95**  
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**MacUser**  
★★★★★

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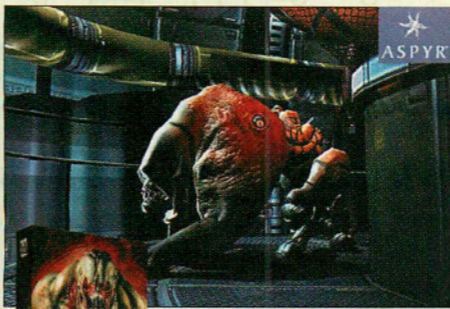
XtremeMac Sport Wrap Armband

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### Doom 3 \$48.99

#### System Requirements:

Mac OS X 10.3.6 or later, PowerPC G4/G5 or later, 1.5GHz or faster, 384MB or higher, 2.2GB free disk space, Video Card (ATI) Radeon 8500 or better, Video Card (NVIDIA) GeForce FX 5200 or better, Video Memory (VRam) 64MB or higher, DVD Drive.



### Unreal Tournament 2004 \$39.95

#### System Requirements:

Macintosh 933MHz/G4-G5 or faster processor, Mac OS X v10.2.8 or higher, 256MB RAM, 32MB AGP Video Card, DVD Drive, 6GB hard disk space. Internet or LAN connection required for online play. (Note: Some maps and game types playable on 800MHz, or faster, processors).

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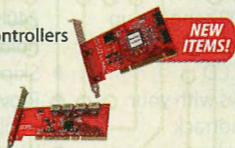
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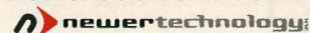


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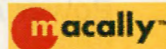
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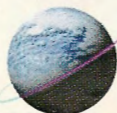
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- 1GB model holds up to 240 songs; 512MB model holds up to 120 songs
- Skip-free playback
- Provides up to 12 hours of playback per charge
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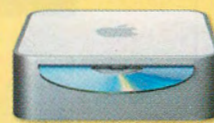


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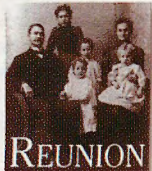
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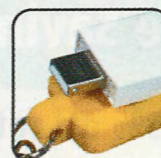
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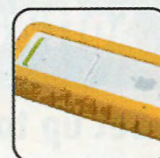
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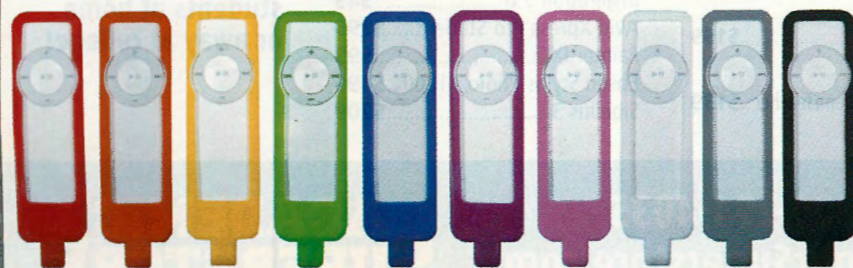
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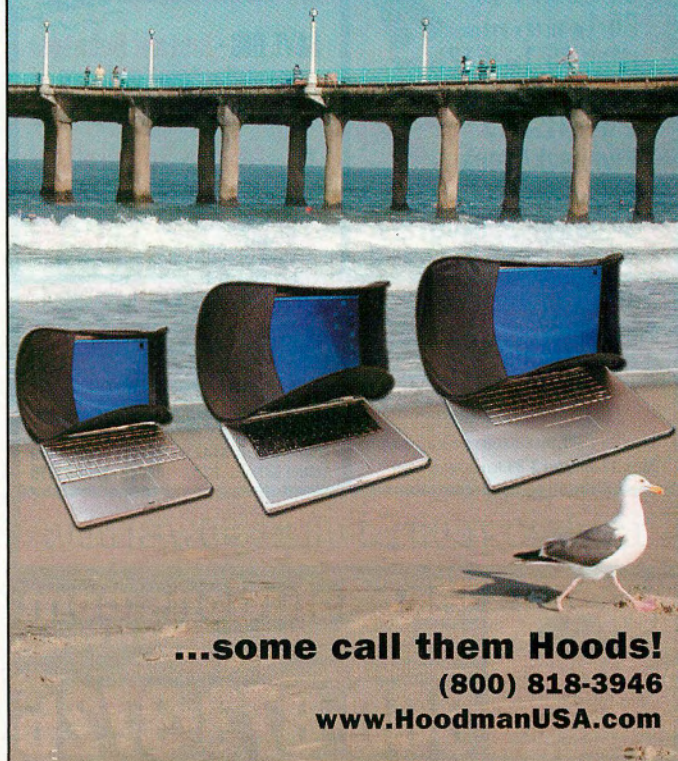
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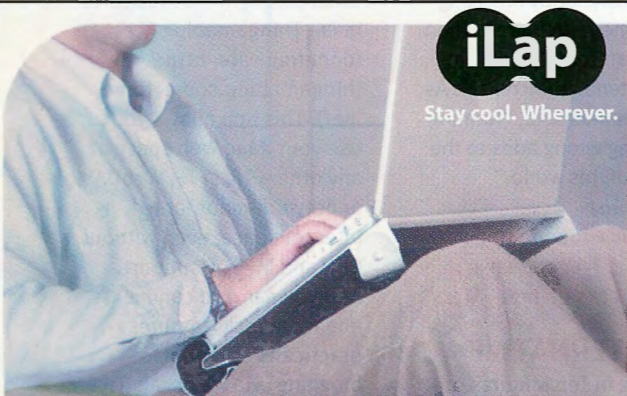
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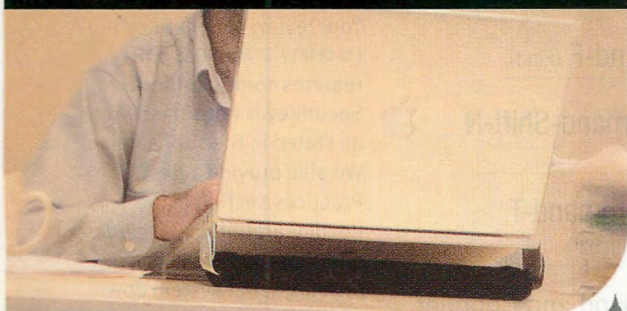
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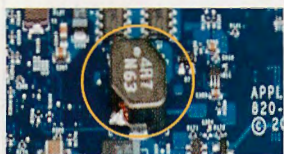
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## LETTERS

### MYSTERY SOLVED

The mystery morsel in "Inside the Mac mini" (Apr/05, p19) is an inductor, which is normally used in switching power supplies; 4.7μH (microhenries) would be a typical value.—*Steven Smith*  
Thanks for solving that mystery. Niko, our resident Mac hacker, will finally be able to get a good night's sleep, and for that, we pay you ohmage. (Sorry, couldn't resist.)—*Max*



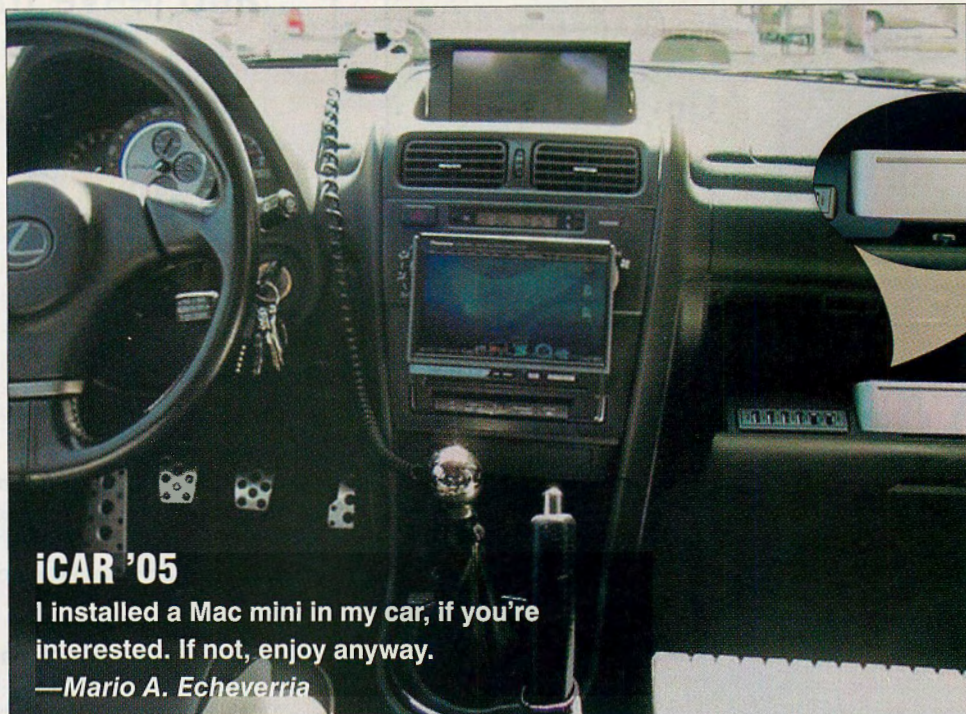
The deduction is induction.

### \$200 TYPO

You got the price of the Kinesis Advantage Pro ergonomic keyboard wrong in "Untwist Your Wrist" (May/05, p26). It costs \$359, not \$159!—*Erica DeVry*  
Whoops, our bad! We still weren't used to the layout of its numerical keypad.—*Max*

### MINI NECROPSY

You guys have to stop doing autopsies on live devices, such as in "Inside the Mac mini." Maybe exploratory surgery, maybe a biopsy



### iCAR '05

I installed a Mac mini in my car, if you're interested. If not, enjoy anyway.

—*Mario A. Echeverria*

if you remove and analyze something, but not an autopsy. An autopsy (aka post-mortem examination or necropsy) is a medical investigation of a corpse to determine the cause of death. Oh, by the way, did the "patient" survive, and what did you charge him/her/it? —*George Housely Jr., M.D.*  
The patient did survive, doc. It even survived our "Max Out Your Mac mini" how-to article (May/05, p54) and is now happily overclocked to 1.5GHz. And we did it for love, not for money.—*Max*

### EXISTENTIAL HOMOPHONES

You're constantly misusing *compliment* (to flatter) when you mean *complement* (to add, extend, or increase). As Albert Camus said, "Naming one thing wrong adds to the misery of this world."

—*A linguist*

Thank ewe four pointing out are air or. Wheel try two due better necks thyme.—*Macs*

### BLOGTERNATIVE

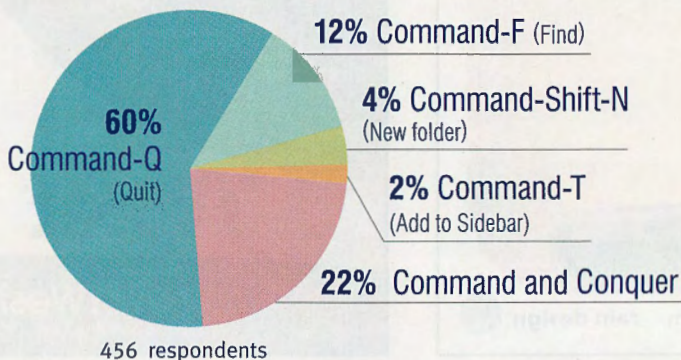
In "Blog in Ten Minutes or Less" (Apr/05, p56), you didn't mention what I think

is the best free blogging tool for Macs, PCs, or any other platform that supports Java—Thingamablog (donationware, <http://thingamablog.sourceforge.net>). This app allows you to use your .Mac Web space or any other FTP, sFTP, WebDAV, or network-mountable Internet space, even without PHP and MySQL support. And you can add comments and trackback (features practically essential to blogging) via Haloscan (free, [www.haloscan.com](http://www.haloscan.com)). —*Jeff Geerling*

## Survey Says

Here are the results of our February 2005 survey. Check out [www.macaddict.com](http://www.macaddict.com) each month for a new online poll.

What's your favorite key command?



### SECURIKEY CLARIFICATION

Your review of SecuriKey (Mar/05, p48) requires some clarification. SecuriKey is not a flash drive, as stated in the subheadline. We also provide a Best Practices section in the documentation that includes additional ways a user can lock his or her system down in order to maximize the effectiveness of SecuriKey.



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LOG OUT 79

These options are not all enabled during the default installation in order to provide maximum flexibility for the user. And finally, the correct system requirement is Mac OS 10.3 or later.—*Bennett Griffin, president and CEO of Griffin Technologies*

At least we got its name right.—*Max*

## ICONS

I love the iPod—but I do have one complaint about the iPod Special Edition. Why a U2 iPod? Don't get me wrong, U2 is a good band, but not a true musical icon such as Jimi Hendrix or Miles Davis. Apple changed the way that people listen to music. Hendrix and Miles and many other notable artists have also changed music; maybe Apple should put a little more thought into choosing *true* musical icons.—*Gil Del Bosque*

There's no accounting for musical taste, but I imagine Apple had, er, other criteria in making that particular decision. Anyway,

I only listen to John Denver/Muppets duets, so what do I know?—*Max*

## START 'EM EARLY

Our two-and-half-year-old daughter loves banging on my wife's G4, much to her consternation. So I dug an old Power Mac 8100 out of a closet, hooked up a monitor I found in a dumpster, loaded up some old shareware, and cut her loose. The paint job was mom's handiwork.

—*Patrick Arnold*

Just so you know, we broke our own "no more cute pictures of people's kids" rule by printing this. But shucks, if that ain't the most darlin' thing. Wait, you found the monitor in a dumpster?—*Max*



All this picture needs is a puppy in an Easter basket before it reaches critical cuteness.



Apple's original "1984" ad (left); the 2005 re-release (center); but wait, what's hanging from the neck of our repressed, blue-gray friend (right)?

## PAST IMPERFECT

OK, I probably missed all the hoopla discussing Apple's re-release of its famous "1984" commercial, but the gal flinging the hammer is wearing an iPod, isn't she? How prescient—or I'm just slow on the uptake.—*Sean Phillips*

Actually, Apple pulled a George Lucas and digitally added the iPod for the re-release. That suspicious white blob hanging from the lanyard around the marching man-zombie's neck, however, was there in the original—and look what we discovered when we applied our proprietary Antipixelating Blower-Upper Photoshop plug-in. Talk about prescient.—*Max*

# WIN!



## Win a Nikon D70!

This month you can win our favorite prosumer digital SLR, the Nikon D70 (📷📷📷 Jul/04, p50). This awesome 6.1-megapixel camera (\$1,299, [www.nikonusa.com](http://www.nikonusa.com)) is packed with pro-level features and comes complete with an AF-S DX Zoom-Nikkor 18mm–70mm lens. Want it? Just write the best caption for the picture below, send it in, and cross your fingers! Only one entry per contestant.

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**Contest Rules** The judges will be MacAddict editors and will base their decision on 33 percent humor, 33 percent originality, and 33 percent creativity. All entries must be received no later than June 30, 2005, with the winner announced around October 2005. By entering this contest, you agree that Future Network USA may use your name, likeness, and Web site for promotional purposes without further payment. All prizes will be awarded, and no minimum number of entries is required. If two or more people enter identical winning captions, the entry received first will be awarded the contest prize. Prizes won by minors will be awarded to their parents or legal guardians. Future Network USA is not responsible for damages or expenses the winners might incur as a result of this contest or the receipt of a prize, and winners are responsible for income taxes based on the value of the prize received. A list of winners may also be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Future Network USA c/o MacAddict Contest, 150 North Hill Dr., Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005. This contest is limited to residents of the United States. No purchase necessary, void in Arizona, Maryland, Vermont, Puerto Rico, and where prohibited by law.

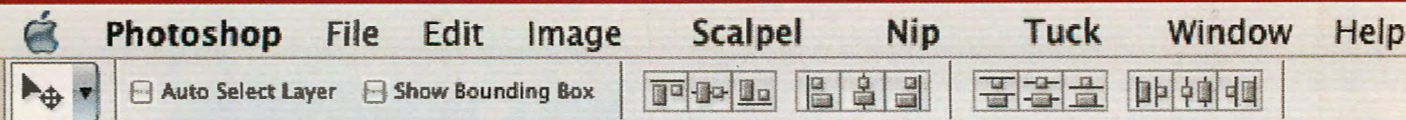
## Winner!

Congratulations to Phil D'Annibale, who won \$929.65 worth of home-recording equipment from M-Audio ([www.m-audio.com](http://www.m-audio.com)). And special thanks to the 209 readers whose captions referred to flatulence, Mexican food, or both.



Hi, Mr. Myslewski, I'm here to pick up your daughter.





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## Beyond Red-Eye Reduction

We've been impressed by the new features in our preliminary peek at Photoshop CS 2 (see "Adobe CS2 on Its Way," p15), but nothing could have prepared us for Adobe's potent new Extreme Makeover palette—perfect whether you're a budding Swan or merely need a minor boost to your self-esteem.

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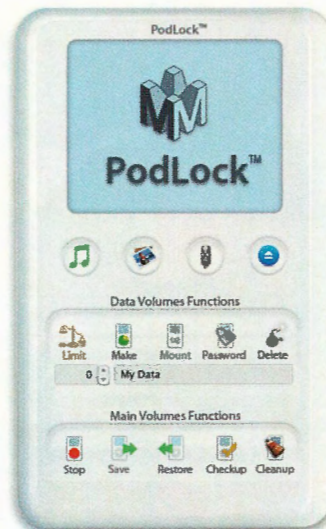


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